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NORTH SLOPE FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE
REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC MEETING

Egan Convention Center
Anchorage, Alaska
March 9, 2016
8:30 a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Harry Brower, Jr., Chairman
- Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak
- Lee Kayotuk
- Gordon Brower
- Robert Shears
- Steve Oomituk
- Regional Council Coordinator, Eva Patton

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P R O C E E D I N G S

(Anchorage, Alaska - 3/9/2016)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Pushing the wrong button. Here we go. The one with the diamond is a warning.

Anyway, good morning, everyone. My name's Harry Brower, Jr. I'm the Chair of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council. I'd like to welcome you all to our meeting here in Anchorage.

At this time I'd like to call our Regional Advisory Council meeting to order and establish a quorum. I'll ask our secretary to give our roll call. Lee.

MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning, Mr. Chair. Thank you. At this time I'd like to do a roll call.

Gordon R. Brower, 2011/2017, Barrow.

MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. I'm here.

MR. KAYOTUK: Robert V. Shears, Barrow, 2011/2016.

MR. SHEARS: Good morning. Present.

MR. KAYOTUK: Steve A Oomituk, Point Hope, 2015/2016.

MR. OOMITUK: Here. Good morning.

MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 4 is vacant.

Harry K. Brower, Jr., Barrow, 1993/2017.

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good morning. I'm here.

MR. KAYOTUK: Sam Kunaknana, 2014/2017, Nuiqsut.

MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

1 Sam Kunaknana is attending the BLM mitigation meeting
2 in Fairbanks this week on behalf of his tribe, so was
3 unable to attend.

4
5 MR. KAYOTUK: Seat 7, 2016, vacant.

6
7 Seat 8, 2015, vacant.

8
9 Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik, 2006/2018.

10
11 Present.

12
13 Seat 10, 2009/2018, Rosemary
14 Ahtuanguaruak, Barrow.

15
16 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Present.

17
18 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. I'd like to
19 move forward at this time, that we are present at this
20 meeting for a quorum.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Lee.

23
24 Again, I just want to take time to say
25 welcome to everyone. And I've asked James to give us
26 an invocation this morning.

27
28 James, please.

29
30 MR. J. NAGEAK: Thank you.

31
32 (In Inupiaq)

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, James.

35
36 Again, welcome, everyone to our North
37 Slope Regional Advisory Council meeting. We have a lot
38 of guests in the background. We need just to go
39 through introductions with our Council, to start again
40 just with the introductions after the roll call. We
41 can start with you, Eva.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Good morning, everyone.
44 Eva Patton, Council coordinator for the North Slope
45 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council.

46
47 MR. OOMITUK: Steve Oomituk. I'm just
48 recently appointed from Point Hope.

49
50 MR. G. BROWER: Good morning. Welcome,

1 Steve. It's good to get people interested in the
2 program. I always think that we need to have more of
3 our communities involved.

4
5 Gordon Brower for the record from
6 Brower, and I was a recipient of a five-year award, and
7 about five years ago I had another award from the same
8 group for a 10-year award, so I had two of them, so now
9 I've got two, a total of 15.

10
11 MR. KAYOTUK: Good morning. Thank you,
12 Chair and Council. Lee Kayotuk, Kaktovik, Alaska.

13
14 Thank you.

15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Harry
17 Brower, Jr. from Barrow.

18
19 I was going to say, Gordon, you can add
20 those two of them and make them into a 15-year award.

21
22 (Laughter)

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And welcome,
25 Steve. Yeah, it's very nice to have you on board as
26 well, and getting representation from one of our other
27 villages up on the North Slope.

28
29 Thank you.

30
31 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Rosemary
32 Ahtuanguaruak from Barrow. Welcome, Steve, and thank
33 you, everyone, for coming to work with us in the
34 process that we have before us. We have a lot going on
35 up there. I've spent the last couple months in
36 Nuiqsut. That was also a wonderful -- a little
37 benefit, having family in both places.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, everybody.
42 My name is Bob Shears. I'm presently from Barrow,
43 formerly from the Village of Wainwright. And I'm on
44 here for another year. I did apply to extend, we'll
45 see. So maybe I'll be seeing you guys for some years
46 into the future.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Then I think -- I
49 tend to keep pressing the button.

50

1 If we can continue with our court
2 reporter and Pat. I'm not sure how that's going to
3 work. Maybe come up to the mic or -- yes, please.

4
5 MS. PETRIVELLI: Pat Petrivelli with
6 Bureau of Land Management, the subsistence branch. I'm
7 an anthropologist and I'm here in Anchorage.

8
9 MS. HARDIN: Good morning, everyone.
10 My name is Jennifer Hardin, and I'm the anthropology
11 division chief from OSM.

12
13 MR. KRON: Good morning, everyone.
14 Thank you for coming. Tom Kron, OSM leadership team
15 representative.

16
17 MR. J. NAGEAK: James Nageak, a former
18 member of the RAC here for the North Slope Borough, but
19 I did such a good job on presenting a paper one time
20 that I'm going to do one at 10:00 o'clock at the
21 (Indiscernible) room, so that's why I'm here. I'm glad
22 to see you guys, jeez.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good to see you as
25 well, James.

26
27 MR. J. NAGEAK: (In Inupiaq)

28
29 MR. COMMACK: Good morning. I'm Larry
30 Commack from Ambler. I'm with the Western Arctic
31 Caribou --I mean, Western Arctic. I'm also the
32 chairman of Gates of the Arctic, so I look forward to
33 listening to your concerns, comments. I've heard a
34 little bit yesterday on the Anaktuvuk, Argo or
35 fourwheeler problem that might be occurring, so we need
36 to hear more of that.

37
38 So thank you very much.

39
40 Thank you.

41
42 MR. MATHEWS: I'm Vince Mathews with
43 Arctic, Kanuti, and Yukon Flats Refuge. I have their
44 report which I'll give to Eva.

45
46 I also have to apologize, I cover three
47 regions, so this afternoon I'll be at Western Interior.

48
49 And then I'm going to be a proud father
50 this week. My daughter is going to get her Ph.D., so

1 first doctor in our family, so I'll be flying out to
2 her event, so I won't be here after today. But if
3 there's anything that you need for Arctic Refuge or
4 whatever, please forward through Eva, and she's very
5 thorough to get ahold of me.

6

7

Thank you.

8

9

10 MR. EVANS: Good morning. It's good to
11 see all these familiar faces again. My name is Tom
12 Evans. I'm a wildlife biologist. I work with Fish and
13 Wildlife Service, OSM, and North Slope's one of my
14 regions along with Southcentral and Kodiak/Aleutians.

14

15

16 MS. INGLES: Good morning. I'm Palma
17 Ingles, and I'm an anthropologist with OSM. So nice to
18 see everybody.

18

19

20 MS. OKADA: Good morning. I'm Marcy
21 Okada, subsistence coordinator for Gates of the Arctic
22 National Park and Preserve. Good morning.

22

23

24 MR. STONEY: Good morning. I'm Raymond
25 Stoney. I'm from Kiana. This is my 20th year with the
26 RAC. It's been my great honor and my great pleasure.
27 Enjoyable working with all of you in this state.

27

28

Thank you very much.

29

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
32 Raymond.

32

33

34 MR. BROOKS: Good morning, Mr.
35 Chairman, members of the council. It's a pleasure to
36 see you again today. My name is Jeff Brooks, and I'm
37 currently with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.
38 I work for them as a socio-cultural specialist in one
39 of their environmental assessment sections. So I'm the
40 person who works on all their EIS's, their
41 environmental impact statements and environmental
42 assessments for off-shore development projects and
43 lease sales. I'm currently responsible for socio-
44 cultural systems, subsistence harvest trends,
45 environmental justice, and community health. I'm
46 looking forward to your meeting today. Have a good
47 one.

47

48

Thank you.

49

50

CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Jeff.

1 We also have two folks that just walked in. We're just
2 going through our introductions, and would you please
3 introduce yourselves.

4
5 MR. SHIEDT: Attamuk, Enoch Shiedt,
6 Northwest Arctic, from Kotzebue.

7
8 MR. RICHARDS: Clement Richards,
9 Northwest Arctic Borough mayor.

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
12 you, everyone, for the introductions. I welcome you
13 all again to our North Slope Regional Advisory Council.
14 I don't have too much more to add in regard to our
15 welcoming remarks.

16
17 Hopefully we'll be able to finish up
18 with our agenda today. Hopefully. At this time we'll
19 move on to the review and adoption of our Regional
20 Advisory Council agenda.

21
22 Yes, Eva.

23
24 MS. PATTON: If we could touch base
25 with anyone who has joined us on line this morning.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Oh, we have people
28 on line. For those of you that are on the
29 teleconference, if you could please introduce
30 yourselves one at a time, please.

31
32 DR. YOKEL: Good morning, Mr. Chair and
33 Council. This is Dave Yokel with the BLM.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good morning,
36 Dave. Do we have anyone else?

37
38 MR. PERRETT: Good morning, this is
39 President Lincoln, Fairbanks.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: President Lincoln,
42 good morning.

43
44 (Laughter)

45
46 MR. PERRETT: Good morning.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

49
50 Anyone else.

1 MS. PATTON: If we don't have anyone
2 else that's joined us on line, if you could please push
3 star-6 to mute your phones. We're getting a little
4 background static. I don't know if it's coming from
5 within the building or on the line, but muting might
6 help to eliminate the static.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Is that it? Okay.
9 We'll continue with the review and adoption of the
10 agenda.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chairman, I move to
13 adopt the agenda.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
16 on the floor to adopt the agenda.

17
18 MR. OOMITUK: Second.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Second. Under
21 discussion. Eva.

22
23 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
24 have a couple updates this morning, and also some
25 facilitation of order of speakers since we have
26 multiple RAC meetings going on, so some folks have to
27 present to other Councils in the afternoon.

28
29 First of all I wanted to welcome James
30 Nageak. He's here as a distinguished speaker for one
31 of the other sessions, and will need to leave for that
32 session at 10, but we were hoping maybe James could
33 share a little bit from Anaktuvuk Pass with the Council
34 before he goes. And if you have an opportunity to join
35 us this afternoon, we'll be discussing more actions
36 from Anaktuvuk Pass as well.

37
38 And then we have Marcy Okada who was
39 going to provide updates from the Anaktuvuk Pass
40 meeting. There were a lot of questions on allotment
41 access, and so Marcy will be able to provide updates
42 for Gates of the Arctic National Park, and then
43 specific information on access. And Marcy needed to be
44 in another meeting this afternoon as well, so if there
45 was an opportunity for the both of them this morning,
46 that would be great.

47
48 And then we have Jim Magdanz will
49 address the Council. He's also speaking to a couple --
50 several Councils this week. If there's an opportunity

1 for Jim Magdanz to give his presentation on sharing
2 networks and harvest of caribou in the communities.
3 And that was provided for the Council in consideration
4 for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou session on
5 Friday. But if he has an opportunity to present after
6 lunch, then he can get to all the Councils that he
7 needs to.

8

9 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. If I
10 may ask, Eva, all of that stuff, it would be nice if
11 you could propose a spot for them under -- is it new
12 business or agency reports?

13

14 MS. PATTON: Sure. Mr. Chair and
15 Council. Jim Magdanz is on the agenda under agency
16 reports. It's just if -- he's trying to present to two
17 Councils today since we have overlapping Councils. So
18 to accommodate everyone, if there was an opportunity
19 for him to present immediately following lunch, then he
20 would be able to make it to both Councils today. But
21 he is on your agenda under agency reports.

22

23 And then we have Marcy Okada is on your
24 agenda under old business. Old business, No. C for
25 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, and
26 that's again to update and report on allotment access.

27

28 And James is our distinguished guest,
29 and we had hoped he would have an opportunity under
30 public and tribal comment on non-agenda items in the
31 morning to be able to share from Anaktuvuk Pass with
32 the Council while he's here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: With that, in
35 regard to Marcy's presentation we would follow up with
36 -- follow right behind James, if that's okay. Is that
37 going to be early enough? You know, I just didn't get
38 the timing on it.

39

40 MS. PATTON: So James would need to go
41 at about 10:00 o'clock or 10:15. And he's right next
42 door. So if Marcy and James had an opportunity prior
43 to 10, then that would work with the timing there.

44

45 Thank you.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We can fix that.
48 Any other discussion in regard to adoption of the
49 agenda. A couple of modifications are to provide
50 presenters at earlier time due to other commitments.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I call for
2 the question to the modifications of the agenda.

3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Call for the
5 question on the adoption of the agenda including the
6 modifications. All in favor of the motion to agenda
7 with the modifications signify by saying aye.

8
9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

12
13 (No opposing votes)

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. So we
16 have an agenda before us.

17
18 Election of officers. I'll give the
19 floor to Eva. Conduct our election of officers.

20
21 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. So
22 every two years the Council brings up election of
23 officers. And I know the last time we lost our quorum
24 for a bit, and continued on. The Council had voted to
25 stay with our current Chair and Vice Chair and
26 Secretary. So I'll initiate the process, and if the
27 Council prefers to write your vote on your little
28 yellow sticky pad, I can collect those.

29
30 But first we will start with
31 nominations for Chair.

32
33 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I'd
34 like to nominate Harry Brower, Jr. and ask for
35 unanimous consent.

36
37 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
38 would do the same thing that was done.

39
40 But I did have a concern, because we
41 have some vacancies and one member not present. In
42 many other councils and planning commissions, we
43 usually table the election of officers until all were
44 present and go with the status quo. I just thought I'd
45 just point that out.

46
47 MS. PATTON: And that is an option. If
48 the Council wishes, you could make a motion to do so.

49
50 MR. OOMITUK: I have a question. When

1 would that be? I mean, are we -- how often does this
2 Council meet?

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: Twice a year.

5

6 MS. PATTON: Through the Chair. Steve,
7 the Council meets generally twice a year. The regular
8 meetings are held approximately twice a year in the
9 fall and in the winter/spring time frame. And the
10 Council does on occasion, especially when there's a lot
11 of work to do, this Council has called teleconference
12 meetings as well to follow up on other work, but
13 generally the Council meets together usually in Barrow
14 or another community in the North Slope region twice a
15 year regularly.

16

17 The Council didn't have everyone in
18 attendance at the last election of officers either.
19 It's often a challenge either with overlapping
20 schedules or weather permitting.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon, I think
23 you need to provide your commenting in amending motion.
24 I think you were -- Steve made a motion to identify me
25 as the Chair Person, but you made the comment of
26 remaining status quo. I'm not sure how this -- I think
27 you presented that as an amending motion.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
30 think in all fairness it would be -- you know, if we're
31 going to be having an election, that the members be
32 present, and give them the opportunity to weigh in.
33 And I would request that we table the election of
34 officers and continue until such time that the next
35 meeting in the fall to have our election when there may
36 be a full presence. I don't know if that's how it's
37 supposed to be said, but.....

38

39 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Direct it at Eva.

42

43 MR. SHEARS: Oh. Well, Madame Chair.
44 If I may second that motion. I agree Sam ought to have
45 the opportunity to participate in this process. And
46 I'm currently very satisfied with our current
47 officership.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: I would concur and call
50 for the question.

1 MS. PATTON: Call for the question.
2 All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

3
4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5
6 MR. G. BROWER: And congratulations,
7 Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Well, thank you
10 for that, Steve and Gordon. You know, we're all
11 working towards the same goal, so I don't think I'm
12 going to try anything different, but continue the same
13 process that we've been following, trying to meet the
14 needs of our people.

15
16 Thank you again.

17
18 Is that is for the elections.

19
20 MS. PATTON: And that is it for the
21 elections. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Just to get the
24 names in. The remaining status quo is Chair Harry
25 Brower; Vice Chair is Rosemary Ahtuanguaruak; Secretary
26 is Lee Kayotuk until our fall meeting. We'll table the
27 elections until then when we have the full Council
28 present.

29
30 With that said, we can move on to our
31 next agenda item, review and approval of previous
32 meeting minutes.

33
34 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: motion to approve.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: A motion on the
37 floor to approve the meeting minutes of November 3 and
38 4 which was held at the Anaktuvuk Pass Community
39 Center. We have a motion on the floor to approve.

40
41 MR. SHEARS: Second.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Bob.
44 Further discussion. I know it was a very lengthy
45 meeting, but in regard to the content of the minutes,
46 I'm not sure how the Council feels in terms of the
47 testimonies that were provided. That's going to be an
48 appendix to our minutes or how do we have them on
49 record? You know, there was a lot of testimony
50 presented regarding the subject of the caribou and

1 caribou harvest and availability, and the hardship the
2 community's faced with. And when we don't identify
3 with -- or have documentation to that effect, it seems
4 a little bit misleading in the sense that the -- in
5 recognition of the contents of the minutes, it seemed
6 the meeting was fairly short, which it wasn't. It was
7 a very lengthy meeting with the community's
8 involvement. I just wanted to share my concern of what
9 I've read so far.

10

11 Thank you.

12

13 Any other comments.

14

15 Discussion.

16

17 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: And I would like to
22 second the concern, and want to make sure -- I know in
23 particular Sollie Hugo made some pretty heartfelt
24 comments from the community of Anaktuvuk, and I want to
25 make sure those kind of things are captured. And we
26 heard yesterday from Madam Chair and Mr. Chair of the
27 bigger meeting that those that are doing studies and
28 other things like that, there is a large resource in
29 the Regional Council minutes about dialogue as we
30 continually talk about hunting pressure, what the
31 climate is doing, and a lot of these experiences we
32 have on the land are in recordings. And that's what I
33 got out of that, and I thought it was an important way
34 to transmit contemporary ecological knowledge as well.

35

36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
37 Any other Council members. And we're still under the
38 discussion of the adoption of the November 3 and 4,
39 2015 meeting minutes held in Anaktuvuk Pass.

40

41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Eva.

44

45 MS. PATTON: If I may, just to follow
46 up, the minutes are a brief, very brief summary of a
47 lot that was shared from both the community and the
48 Council.

49

50 The Council had requested we have --

1 the meetings are recorded and transcribed, and so we
2 had requested an audio copy so that the Community of
3 Anaktuvuk Pass could have a recording of the testimony.
4 And we will sent that on to Anaktuvuk Pass. And if
5 James Nageak would be willing to help shepherd that for
6 the community.

7
8 As well, the Council had requested so
9 that the Board and others would hear the full testimony
10 of people, to provide both a letter trying to
11 articulate the key points of concern for the community
12 along with an excerpt of the transcript, so that there
13 would be a letter to the Board, and also the Council
14 had requested to the Board of -- the Federal
15 Subsistence Board and also the Board of Game in
16 conjunction with a proposal for the controlled use
17 area. So that letter, the details are still being
18 finalized, and work with the Community of Anaktuvuk
19 Pass to ensure that they feel it's a reflection of
20 their concerns. But it would come with an enclosure of
21 an actual copy of the transcripts. And so that will
22 become part of the Council's record, and also be
23 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board and the
24 Board of Game and Park Service at the request of the
25 Council.

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Well, Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
30 that, Eva.

31
32 Gordon.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. So to my
35 understanding, when we have in our minutes saying --
36 and this is just out of the minutes here, that says,
37 extensive tribal and public comments were received from
38 Anaktuvuk Pass residents, and goes on to list a whole
39 bunch of names, Raymond Paneak, Sollie Hugo, Earl
40 Williams, Rhoda Ahgeak. So the expectation now is that
41 these are still coming, they're on their way over here
42 to be part of the re cord and they will be transcribed?

43
44 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
45 Correct. So we have the transcription, and what's
46 being finalized is the introductory letter to the
47 Federal Subsistence Board and the other agencies that
48 the Council had requested they receive those
49 transcripts. So the transcripts will be included with
50 that letter, and it will be part of this Council's

1 record for that meeting.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

4

5 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. I have no
6 further concern. I think those are still in the works.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So in regard to
9 adopting.....

10

11 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. I have a
12 question.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Oh, sorry, Steve.
15 Go ahead.

16

17 MR. OOMITUK: So this meeting was held
18 November 3 and 4 in Anaktuvuk Pass then, and all the
19 concerns that were brought out, how are they addressed,
20 or do we have a report of their concerns of what, you
21 know, they had, and how this Council addresses those
22 concerns? Is there any outcome of.....

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So, Steve, we do
25 have our court reporter that recorded the community
26 meeting. It was our Council meeting that was being
27 held in the Community of Anaktuvuk Pass at their
28 request to meet there. We had identified an
29 opportunity to host a meeting in one of our villages on
30 the North Slope, and Anaktuvuk was one of the areas we
31 had identified. We had identified Kaktovik as well,
32 and we didn't have sufficient timing to structure to go
33 to Anaktuvuk, and the second option was to AKP, so we
34 ended up going to AKP for that meeting.

35

36 But in regards to your question on the
37 recording of and how we addressed those concerns, we
38 had lengthy discussions and had it recorded. And
39 trying to address this, the concern of the caribou and
40 regulations on caribou was the issue. And then we had
41 some different presentations coming in regard to what
42 was being proposed for changes to regulations, and how
43 those regulations were not sufficing the need for the
44 community, with the hardship that it was placed under
45 due to the lack of caribou availability.

46

47 So there were different means and
48 communications that were generated to try and respond
49 to the concern, and yet it still remains to be a
50 problem regardless of regulations. And there needs to

1 be some follow-up and hear the concerns from the
2 community voicing these very issues. The concerns. So
3 we've heard them and tried submitting, generating
4 proposals, working with our key Staff within our Office
5 of Subsistence Management in regard to the concerns
6 that we've heard, and generated proposals. And we're
7 still in the discussion. We'll have some more further
8 discussions on the proposals, because there's some
9 miscommunications that we've identified in the writing
10 of those proposals that needed to be reflected from the
11 previous discussions. We had some earlier meetings
12 about how we want the proposals structured and
13 communications wasn't always clear. And under the two
14 management regimes, the State and the Federal, their
15 areas are not the same coverage in terms of
16 regulations.

17
18 So I hope that helps to address a part
19 of your question, Steve, but it's still in the works,
20 and we're trying to move forward to addressing the
21 situation that's in Anaktuvuk Pass.

22
23 Gordon.

24
25 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. And
26 I think it's important for Steve and all of us to
27 understand, when we -- when the minutes are being done,
28 that it was a reflection of our meeting. And some of
29 the actions that are developed, like Harry said, I see
30 in the Chair's report, and I really like the words that
31 some of them are in there. I think the first one is
32 the preponderance of the evidence that Anaktuvuk Pass,
33 primary dependence for resources is caribou. Just like
34 there's a preponderance of the evidence that the
35 coastal people depend on bullhead whale. I mean,
36 you've got to start tying them so close, because those
37 are their resources. So I saw that kind of language.

38
39 And then some of the proposals were
40 starting to come down the pike, like we wanted to
41 affect the State Board of Game. So this Council I
42 think helped, made a proposal to look at Teshekpuk
43 caribou and Western Arctic caribou, and say, State,
44 quit calculating the ANS as one herd, because we also
45 think that when the ANS is calculated that way, if you
46 look at it, Teshekpuk herd gets the short end of the
47 stick and is consumed a lot faster, because it's a much
48 smaller herd. Those are I think some of the points.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,

1 Steve?

2

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MR. OOMITUK: Yeah,

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Eva.

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And realize the Anaktuvuk Pass was a big meeting and there were a lot of action items that came out of that meeting that are ongoing right now. So the community had requested that the Council assist them with the development of the proposal to the Board of Game to address the controlled use area in Anaktuvuk Pass. The Arctic Board of Game proposals are due April 29th, and so the Council has a draft proposal in place, but we still need to follow through and connect with the Community of Anaktuvuk Pass. They have organized a tri-lateral working group within the community to address caribou concerns, and we want to make sure that they have an opportunity to review the proposal, have their input in terms of their knowledge and details in terms of timing of protection for the caribou. So that proposal is draft. We have copies here. The Council had addressed it at their December meeting. But that needs to go back to the community yet for their final input before that would be submitted.

And there's also these letters of support that were generated from the Anaktuvuk Pass meeting that the Council is also working on, and those will be finalized with the community as well to go in support of the Board of Game proposal, but also to our Federal Subsistence Board, and the National Park Service, and the other Federal agencies that are part of managing that herd. So there were a couple proposals that were -- that are still in draft form that we need to work with the communities on to get their approval and support and input, and then those letters, and also the transcripts from the meeting will be a part of the support for those proposals.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve.

4

5 MR. OOMITUK: Yes. Thank you. You
6 know, like I stated earlier, I'm new to this, and I
7 just wanted to try to understand.

8

9 But, you know, I was in the roles and
10 responsibilities meeting yesterday, and, you know, the
11 Advisory Councils that advise the Federal Government.
12 You know, I was surprised that the Federal waters up on
13 the North Slope, you know, we have no jurisdiction.
14 You know, hey, we're an Advisory Council to the
15 Federal Government, but we have the Northwest Passage
16 is opening up, and we're concerned about that, and we
17 don't advise about that. I was surprised that this
18 Council, we're a Regional Advisory Council, and I was
19 surprised that it was somebody else that makes -- you
20 know, it's in our waters, it's Federal waters, and the
21 animals that come up north and migrate, you know, the
22 whales that feed on the plankton, the cycle of life
23 over everything. You know, we've subsisted up there
24 all our lives, and we have no say-so of what's going to
25 happen. You know, the international people are going
26 to be coming. It's a shorter route to get to the other
27 side. They don't have to go through the Panama Canal.
28 There's going to be a lot of traffic and we have no
29 jurisdiction over saying what's -- we need a regulated
30 -- I was surprised that this Regional Advisory Council
31 doesn't make that.

32

33 That's what I was told.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Are
36 you done, Steve.

37

38 MR. OOMITUK: (Nods affirmatively)

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So you're right,
41 this Regional Advisory Council is, as you learned, that
42 it's segmented from the other resource management
43 responsibilities that are given to the other Federal
44 agencies. So this is -- this has the multi-agency
45 division of the lands that's responsible on shore. So
46 when we're talking about the other subsistence use
47 resources, marine mammals that you're referring to, it
48 goes to a whole different group of Federal agencies
49 that deal with marine mammals and fisheries. Fisheries
50 on land and rivers is something that we deal with

1 that's used for subsistence.

2

3 So again you'll go through your
4 learning curve and see how this -- I've stated it
5 multiple times, that the definition of Federal
6 subsistence is fragmented. It doesn't cover everything
7 that we think of how it should be defined, but it's --
8 we kind of go through our learning curves. Or the
9 Federal agencies need to do a better explanation of how
10 this fragmentation is applied within specific areas,
11 marine mammals, migratory birds, terrestrial animals.
12 As to how we see this Regional Advisory Council right
13 now, it's within the Federal lands and waters, rivers
14 that we deal with, that utilize for subsistence within
15 our respective region.

16

17 There's other areas that are outside of
18 our North Slope that have different Federal managers.
19 So that's something that we'll go through, and we
20 continue to learn how these things operate within each
21 other, and that's something that -- that's why this
22 meeting was called for, to utilize it as a workshop, to
23 give opportunity for new members to learn, go through
24 this little orientation of how the responsibilities and
25 roles of Regional Advisory Councils interact with the
26 Federal Subsistence Board.

27

28 So I'm starting to see it already, and
29 understand you're realizing how it is, and identify the
30 differences in our responsibilities as Regional
31 Advisory Council to the Federal Subsistence Board. So
32 we'll continue, you'll continue to learn, and we will,
33 too, along with you in terms of how you perceive things
34 and how we can better share that communications. And
35 communications is very key to that understanding.

36

37 So in regard to our meeting minutes,
38 and this is something we have to keep apprised of in
39 terms of reviewing the language within the contents of
40 the minutes. It's very meaningful, because it starts
41 us from the ground in sharing that information going up
42 to the agencies and the resource managers, the
43 biologists that hear our concerns, and it's being
44 recorded so that we can be reflective on the issues
45 that we're dealing with within our respective regions.

46

47 Steve.

48

49 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. No
50 more further questions. I call for the question.

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Question on the
2 motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 3 and
3 4. All in favor of the motion signify by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. If
12 Sam was here, he'd probably say nay. Just kidding.

13
14 Anyway, we have our next set of winter
15 meeting minutes following this group of meeting
16 minutes. The next is NS-16 is what I'm reading on the
17 bottom of the page. Via teleconference, December 14,
18 2015. We had a follow-up meeting regarding our
19 remaining agenda items that we didn't conclude with
20 during our meeting in Anaktuvuk Pass. So these are the
21 follow-up meeting minutes that we had from the
22 remaining items that we needed to address at that time.
23 So we have the December 14, 2015 meeting minutes.

24
25 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Motion to approve.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the
28 floor to approve December 14, 2015 meeting minutes.

29
30 MR. G. BROWER: Seconded.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Second. Further
33 discussion. Again the contents are in regard to some
34 of the proposals that we had looked to develop and
35 reflect on some of the concerns that we had voiced from
36 previous meetings. Excuse me.

37
38 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.

41
42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In both these
43 minutes we reference Anaktuvuk Pass meeting and the
44 work that was done there. It is really important that
45 we do identify that -- not the translation, but the
46 transcript be included in this process. But also to
47 consider if there's additional report generation that
48 could be obtained from that process to allow it to
49 continue to be used with these issues. There's been
50 some discussion in the meetings here about other issues

1 affecting the caribou in the area around Anaktuvuk Pass
2 from Eastern Interior and timing of some of these
3 discussions. So I want to make sure that we capture
4 what is important and continue to grow the report into
5 additional processes.

6

7 Thank you.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
10 that, Rosemary.

11

12 Any other discussion.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: On the Fisheries
19 Resource Monitoring Program, I know several of us
20 expressed concerns about the priority fish and maybe
21 potential evaluation of concerns. I don't know if this
22 is the place to do that or not, but I want to make sure
23 if and when a study is proposed, that they seek out the
24 affected users in that area so that we can help them
25 find a good spot. Because I noticed some studies that
26 are going on in the Ikpikpuk area, we're very unhappy
27 with it, because it affect caribou migration where the
28 USGS and other folks start doing studies and they just
29 plop themselves sometimes right in the middle of a
30 migration route. And (In Inupiaq), they start to move
31 them (In Inupiaq) off, and then we struggle. I just
32 wanted to make that point.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
35 bringing that up, Gordon. Again these are very
36 important issues that we have to provide, you know. We
37 request for research, but then there's always impacts
38 associated with the research that be to the subsistence
39 users when there's no communications or coordination
40 efforts to place specific camps or research sites,
41 locations, camps, so that it puts a hinderance again on
42 the subsistence user groups that are trying to conduct
43 opportunities to take wildlife in the midst of a
44 staging area for researchers. Sometimes it creates an
45 interference. That's what Gordon's referring to. So
46 if that can be accommodated at some point, I think
47 there needs to be further dialogue and communications
48 as to which fisheries -- or under the fisheries
49 resource management, location of activity for the
50 researchers, we need to identify within these proposed

1 research monitoring.

2

3 Eva.

4

5 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
6 This afternoon on the agenda is a discussion on the
7 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program and opportunity
8 for the Council to develop priority information needs.

9

10 And there was also follow up from the
11 presentations to the Council at the Anaktuvuk Pass
12 meeting on some of the proposals that were supported
13 for the Chandler Lake area and Anaktuvuk Pass. And
14 those researchers followed back around and Council
15 Member Bob Shears had an opportunity to talk with the
16 people in Anaktuvuk Pass as well in his other role with
17 his other job.

18

19 But to follow through, so that
20 researcher will be here, and they modified their
21 research plans based on the feedback from the community
22 to avoid disturbance to caribou. So he'll be here this
23 afternoon, and he can speak to that if the Council is
24 interested. But they did change their research plans
25 based on that feedback from the community. And this
26 would be a good discussion to have again with Karen
27 Hyer and the fisheries program of continuing to
28 encourage that particularly this FRMP program, which is
29 established for the subsistence fisheries for
30 subsistence users, that that community input and
31 interaction and role in forming the fisheries projects
32 in the region and how they're conducted. So that would
33 be great to bring that up again this afternoon during
34 the FRMP session.

35

36 Thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
39 sharing that, Eva.

40

41 Any further discussion in regard to our
42 December -- let me get back to the original page.
43 December 14 meeting minutes, regarding the contents,
44 concerns.

45

46 MR. OOMITUK: The question is called
47 for.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's
50 been called on the motion to adopt the December 14,

1 2015 meeting minutes of the North Slope Regional
2 Advisory Council. All in favor of the motion signify
3 by saying aye.

4
5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

8
9 (No opposing votes)

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
12 you. December 14, 2015 meeting minutes have been
13 approved.

14
15 Let's see what else we have. Do we
16 have another set of meeting minutes, Eva? I'm just
17 recalling the one teleconference we had.

18
19 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
20 That's it. So it was the November 3rd and 4th meeting
21 in Anaktuvuk Pass, and then the December 14th meeting
22 by teleconference.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

25
26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It's 20 to 10 now.
27 Can we have James do his so he has time.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I was just
30 going to say we're down to agenda item 7. Oh, 8.
31 Reports. We can move on to giving Mr. James Nageak the
32 opportunity to provide his presentation at this time.
33 James, I'll give you the floor.

34
35 MR. J. NAGEAK: I wasn't prepared for
36 this one, but I'm prepared for the other one, Mr.
37 Chair.

38
39 You know, caribou is a very delicate
40 conversational subject for the people of Anaktuvuk
41 Pass. The name itself gives the meaning of the place.
42 There are so many caribou that come through that they
43 drop those little pellets. And the place names are
44 really interesting for people of Anaktuvuk Pass, too.
45 There's a place called (In Inupiaq). You know, there's
46 so many caribou that they come together and they piss
47 so much that the mound smells like, you know.

48
49 But the concerns that we have always
50 has been other factors that affect the migration of the

1 caribou. One time me and my wife and her uncle and
2 aunt were sitting there waiting for caribou. We were
3 looking this other way, and all of a sudden we heard
4 this clacking noises, and we looked up and here's a
5 bunch of bulls coming right through. You know, their
6 velvets were off, they were running, and the antlers
7 were clacking together. And we dropped two or three or
8 four of them just for us.

9

10 But that isn't happening. It's a
11 concern. I know there were many factors that makes it
12 hard for the caribou to come our way. You know, it's a
13 lot warmer than it used to be, you know, and this
14 winter has been really -- we should have had the winter
15 that New York City had this winter, you know. Jeez.

16

17 (Laughter)

18

19 MR. J. NAGEAK: All of that bad weather
20 is going over that way, and here we're having a balmy
21 one. And I think that naturally nature has a way of
22 telling the caribou it's pretty good over here. I
23 think we'll stay around a while. And Nuiqsut have
24 caribou that has fat that thick. We know they're that
25 fat with the fat that thick is because we didn't get
26 the caribou and they've been helping us. You know,
27 they sent a plane load of caribou, because we didn't
28 get the caribou this fall again. And so we thank the
29 people of Nuiqsut for it. And also Barrow and
30 Wainwright. Even those people in Kenai sent us these
31 fish fillets, you know. They were that thick around
32 and that thick. 10, 20 cases of that fish come to
33 Anaktuvuk Pass to help us through this winter. There
34 are other factors, of course.

35

36 Controlled use area is one of the big
37 issues that we have in Anaktuvuk Pass. Even though
38 some years ago when we went to Bethel for the Board of
39 Game meeting, and we had contingents of Anaktuvuk
40 people to go down there to face up with the Board of
41 Game for the State of Alaska. Because at that time the
42 controlled use area had a sunset clause in it. If
43 nothing happens, then it's going to go away. But we
44 were concerned, that it was helping some. So we went
45 to Bethel and had a big convention there with the Board
46 of Game. We increased the size of the controlled use
47 area at that point.

48

49 But the only problem we had was that we
50 were concerned about the caribou. We never thought

1 that these airplanes were going to go over us to go
2 hunt bear and moose or go fishing some place. You
3 know, we never included those. It never dawned on us
4 that the planes would still be going up north even
5 though we have that controlled use area for caribou.
6 And so I hope that the new controlled use area proposal
7 to the Board of Game will have an effect -- have these
8 issues in that proposal.

9

10 What can you say about sporthunting.
11 I'd like to go sporthunting in Iowa sometime. I don't
12 know how much that would cost, you know, how much
13 opposition I would have as an Inupiaq person to go to
14 Iowa and go, hey, white tails are here some place I
15 hear, and I want to find a place where I could -- and
16 it's behind the barn. You know? I've been to Iowa.

17

18 (Laughter)

19

20 MR. J. NAGEAK: I know they jump over
21 the fence, too, down there. That deer.

22

23 We try to educate them. I learned a
24 new word the other day in reading some of the things
25 that I needed to read in my subsistence file. You
26 don't go after the vanguard of the caribou. That's a
27 new term. We never used that vanguard. Maybe the
28 sporthunters know that word. Maybe we should start
29 using it. Instead of don't kill the first caribou, we
30 should start saying the vanguard of the caribou is
31 restricted for the Inupiaq people themselves, because
32 they let them go past the village or past the hunters.
33 Because if you do, then the others that are following
34 will also follow the disturbed path that the caribou
35 has, because the hunters have already shot at them, and
36 they're dispersed into different ways. So therefore
37 the next part of the caribou migration will follow that
38 and they won't come through us. So those are the
39 things that we.....

40

41 You know, road systems. Why don't you
42 have a road to Anaktuvuk Pass? Jeez. Anaktuvuk Pass
43 people are known for their nomadic lifestyle. They're
44 nomads of North America. They're the last nomads of
45 North America. But then SOS came around, and state-
46 operated schools. Anaktuvuk Pass had that state-
47 operated school built right on top of the hill so
48 therefore the children had to be able -- had to go to
49 school. So that limited the nomadic lifestyle of the
50 Nunamiut people. The post office came. And people

1 like Vince came around, anthropologists, saying, oh,
2 yeah, I've got to write about you guys. What effect is
3 this happening, you know. You're having your children
4 schooled. Sorry, Vince.

5

6 (Laughter)

7

8 MR. J. NAGEAK: I minored in
9 anthropology at the University of Alaska, so I know the
10 questions.

11

12 And so that's one of the problems that,
13 you know, we have, that these people don't understand.
14 So even if we use the words that they use -- I'm going
15 to start using the vanguard of the caribou, the first
16 herd.

17

18 I've got 10 minutes, so any questions
19 that you want to ask? You know, I'm speaking for
20 Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm not from there originally. I was
21 born in Barrow, raised at Kaktovik, and I married into
22 Anaktuvuk Pass. I was 20 years old. I went to
23 Anaktuvuk the summer of -- in July of 1961, and, holy
24 maloney, I was eating lunch at my Uncle Homer Makenna.
25 Homer and my dad were brothers. Makenna family. And I
26 was eating lunch and I was picking out what I was going
27 to eat, and I looked -- in the summertime they use
28 tents, because they'd been living in (In Inupiaq), the
29 sod houses. And I looked at the front of the tent, the
30 tent flap there, and there's this -- holy maloney, a
31 young lady was sitting there. We had our 51st
32 anniversary on January 7th.

33

34 And I grew up, you know, with the
35 whales and oogruks and metchuq (ph), and Arctic cisco
36 instead of Arctic char and lake trouts. We have Arctic
37 char in Kaktovik, too, all right, but they're different
38 than the ones we have from Chandler Lake. So it's kind
39 of an interesting life that we have.

40

41 So if you have any questions or -- I
42 like your comments about having the impassionate words
43 that the people of Anaktuvuk Pass gave to you guys when
44 you were there. Somebody must have recorded them,
45 right? Yeah. So if you need any help in the Inupiaq
46 transcriptions of that, then corner Lee over there,
47 he's pretty good at it.

48

49 (Laughter)

50

1 MR. J. NAGEAK: He's the secretary,
2 right?

3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any questions to
5 James from the Council.

6
7 (No comments)

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I just want to
10 thank you, James for having the opportunity to come to
11 our Council meeting again. You know, it's always a
12 pleasure having you here. We have a wealth of
13 knowledge that we would like to capture, but we only
14 take small portions of it, and it's always very
15 meaningful discussions when you're involved with our
16 issues that we're discussing within the Council, and I
17 just want to thank you for that time and effort that we
18 take away from your family, and then sharing you with
19 us.

20
21 Thank you.

22
23 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. It's kind of a
24 lifestyle of a retired person I guess. It happens, you
25 know. Anna was down here for a meeting, and I was -- I
26 haven't been home since the 1st of March, and here it
27 is what, the 9th. And I don't get home until the 16th
28 of March. But fortunately I have to go through
29 Fairbanks to come here from Anaktuvuk, and Anna and I
30 met Saturday. She was on her way from -- on the way
31 home from meetings down here, and I was coming in from
32 Barrow. And so it's kind of an interesting lifestyle.

33
34 And I like to wear nice clothes when
35 I'm in Anchorage, shirt and tie. I grew up where my
36 mom had to take the sleeping bag out and hit it with a
37 piece of wood so the lice could fall off from it. When
38 you grew up with lice around you, and you come to town
39 and you don't feel any lice crawling around all over
40 you, because you took a nice bath, and you look -- I
41 look nice.

42
43 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

44
45 MR. J. NAGEAK: I had good education in
46 the western culture, and one of them is that there are
47 shirts and there are ties, and nice pants that are so
48 sharp you could cut your fingers on the crease.

49
50 So thank you for that educational

1 process that we had to go through in order to be a part
2 of the United States.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve. Thank you.

5

6 MR. OOMITUK: I just wanted to thank
7 James for coming over and voicing his concerns for his
8 community, and hopefully we can be addressed.
9 Especially, you know, when you depend on caribou as a
10 way of life and they don't come through, I can't
11 imagine not catching a whale. You know, it's very
12 disturbing when you live a way of life all your life.
13 And, you know, we know in Anaktuvuk Pass, that's the
14 center of their life is the caribou. So hopefully this
15 can be addressed and find out what's exactly going on
16 with that.

17

18 And then it is right, you know, we were
19 always told when we were young to let that first herd
20 come through, and the rest will come through, you know.
21 But young hunters nowadays, you know, they go out there
22 -- you know, in the old days when you go hunting,
23 you're gone for two, three weeks. Nowadays they go out
24 and come back in 10 hours. You know, everything is
25 rush. We deal with sporthunters, planes. They drop
26 them off in the migration routes. They're changing the
27 migration. And, you know, we have to let those first
28 caribou come through so the rest will follow. They've
29 got to understand that.

30

31 Thank you, James.

32

33 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. Speaking of
34 whaling, you know, I went to class of '73 from UAF and
35 class of '76 from University of Dubuque Theological
36 Seminary. And I got all of this education, and then I
37 went to Kaktovik. And it was on the whaling time,
38 September 26. We had a church service on a Sunday, and
39 Monday morning there's a knock on my door, and it was
40 my Uncle George Washington. He was born February 22.
41 (In Inupiaq) And he says, let's go whaling. So I
42 quickly put my stuff down and we went to Auntie Mildred
43 Rexford. She fed me breakfast and put clothes on me
44 that were warm enough to go out on a boat in the ocean.
45 September 27 at 10:45 my Uncle Isaac, (In Inupiaq),
46 handed me the whaling gun. Never said anything, just
47 handed me the whaling gun. I'd never shot one of those
48 things before in my life. I'd been away at Barrow when
49 my dad used to go out whaling. But I never had a
50 chance to shoot one. My uncle must have thought, hey,

1 you went to school for all of -- for five years we were
2 gone from home, and we came back. At 10:45 on
3 September 27th, 1976, the whale gave itself to me. I
4 shot it. And my mom and my Auntie Mildred talked about
5 that day for 20 years after that happened.

6
7 So I feel proud of being a subsistence
8 hunter and helping the people of Anaktuvuk Pass,
9 because the next day I went home with 900, 1,000 pounds
10 of muktuk and meat, and it was the first time a lot of
11 the people around Anaktuvuk had fresh (In Inupiaq).
12 They never had (In Inupiaq) before. The only time you
13 could have (In Inupiaq) is when the whale is freshly
14 caught, and you boil it, and it's so nice. People at
15 Anaktuvuk, we celebrated the next day, on September the
16 28th at Anaktuvuk Pass which was kind of an experience
17 that made you proud to be a part of a nation that is
18 provided with all of these animals that we have.

19
20 Thank you for an opportunity this
21 morning. I think I have to go to the other section.
22 If you want to take a break and listen, you're welcome
23 to do that.

24
25 Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you again,
28 James.

29
30 I'm looking at Eva. I'm trying to
31 figure out, we should go on to the next subject, or do
32 we want to take a few minute break to follow James and
33 maybe come back.

34
35 Eva.

36
37 MS. PATTON: It's at the wish of the
38 Council. We could take a small break. James was going
39 to be presenting for about 10 or 15 minutes as part of
40 the holistic management session. We could invite our
41 guests to join us, if the Council wishes, and reconvene
42 and let folks on line know.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: What's the wish of
45 the Council. Bob.

46
47 MR. SHEARS: Break. I would encourage
48 a break if the others are ready.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We'll take a break

1 for a while long.

2

3 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

6

7 MR. G. BROWER: It sounds like he's --
8 maybe a 30-minute recess or something.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: 30-minute recess
11 to listen to James and come right back after the
12 presentation, and we'll get started with our business
13 again.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 (Off record)

18

19 (On record)

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Our next agenda
22 item will be hearing from Marcy. Gates of the Arctic.
23 Marcy, you can introduce Greg for us, too, along with
24 you. So, Marcy, you have the floor.

25

26 MS. OKADA: Good morning Mr. Chair,
27 Council members. I'm just going to give a quick update
28 -- oh, just for the record, Marcy Okada, subsistence
29 coordinator for Gates of the Arctic National Park and
30 Preserve.

31

32 On Page 32 I believe of your meeting
33 packet there's a Gates of the Arctic update. I'm just
34 going to briefly go over certain items, and then next
35 we'll go over what's on Page 31 regarding Native
36 allotment access in Gates of the Arctic.

37

38 I guess the two things I'd like to
39 point out for the Gates of the Arctic update is the
40 summary on Dall sheep on Page 33. Gates of the Arctic
41 was surveyed. The entire park unit and the two
42 preserves were surveyed for Dall sheep population
43 numbers the summer of 2015, so last year. And there's
44 also a brief that gives further information on the
45 numbers that they were seeing.

46

47 I'd also like to just share a little
48 bit of information. Both Kumi Rattenburi and I, she's
49 the sheep ecologist, have been traveling to Anaktuvuk
50 Pass to work with the sheep hunters. We've been having

1 annual meetings, sharing with the community, but also
2 with the sheep hunters, population numbers on Dall
3 sheep. And then also working with the sheep hunters to
4 collect sheep harvest information. As you already
5 know, the community has a sheep community hunt of 60
6 sheep that starts July 15th and goes to the end of
7 December. And so we continue to meet with sheep
8 hunters and share information, and, you know, they
9 share information back with us also.

10

11 And then lastly we had a Gates of the
12 Arctic National Park Subsistence Resource Commission
13 meeting. It was held in Fairbanks November 9th to
14 10th. And National Park Service Staff shared
15 information regarding resource surveys, cultural
16 resource project updates, and then we also went over
17 Federal subsistence wildlife proposals.

18

19 Currently we have two vacant seats on
20 our SRC for Anaktuvuk Pass. There's an application
21 that's going through the process of being approved by
22 the Secretary of Interior. And we still have an open
23 seat for James Nageak. Per our last meeting in
24 Anaktuvuk Pass, or the last RAC meeting in Anaktuvuk
25 Pass in November, Sam Kunaknana has agreed to be the
26 interim SRC member until the second AKP seat can be
27 filled. Our next SRC meeting is going to be held in
28 Anaktuvuk Pass on April 26th to the 27th in the hopes
29 that we can meet with community members and see who
30 might be interested in filling that second seat.

31

32 Are there any questions.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Questions from the
35 Council.

36

37 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Lee.

40

41 MR. KAYOTUK: I had a question. Since
42 sheep in the area of AKP and surroundings, I have heard
43 -- is mycoplasma being identified in these sheep? Have
44 you heard about this disease?

45

46 MS. OKADA: I think if Kumi Rattenburi
47 is on the phone, that might be a question for her to
48 answer.

49

50 MS. RATTENBURI: Hi, Marcy. Hi, Mr.

1 Chair and the Council. This is Kumi Rattenburi. I'm
2 an ecologist with the Park Service, and I'm in
3 Fairbanks calling in to this meeting.

4
5 And, yes, the problem has been
6 identified for big horn sheep in the Lower 48.
7 Currently the State is trying pass measures to prevent
8 transmission of those diseases from domestic sheep and
9 goats to wild sheep. But as far as Gates of the Arctic
10 we don't have information about that, that we have seen
11 that it is not there. When they tested previously for
12 disease, they haven't found any, and we suspect that
13 it's not yet in Alaska like it is in the Lower 48. But
14 wild sheep are more susceptible to the effects of those
15 if they were to come here.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
18 Lee.

19
20 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
21 Yep.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And other comments
24 to Marcy from the Council or other.....

25
26 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Bob.

29
30 MR. SHEARS: Good morning, Marcy. I
31 was really interested in hearing more about your on-
32 going project to coordinate access to Native allotments
33 with Anaktuvuk residents and the Gates of the Arctic.

34
35 MS. OKADA: So following the quick park
36 update, I'll be going over a little brief that's on
37 Page 31 regarding Native allotment access. So I guess
38 once we wrap up this part, we'll move on to Native
39 allotment.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Is that okay,
42 Robert. Okay. Thank you for that, Marcy, and we'll
43 definitely do that.

44
45 In regard to the presentation regarding
46 the Dall sheep, maybe you -- Marcy, just going through,
47 you indicated that there were some proposals that were
48 generated by the Subsistence Resource Commission, and
49 those were referring to caribou or did you identify
50 what resources they were generated for?

1 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. So the two
2 wildlife proposals generated by the Gates of the Arctic
3 SRC were WP16-41 that was related to Dall sheep for
4 Units 24A and B, but it's more associated with the
5 southern communities from -- communities south of Gates
6 of the Arctic, and it does not affect Anaktuvuk Pass'
7 community harvest hunt of 60 sheep.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And that was the
10 only one?

11

12 MS. OKADA: Oh. And the second
13 proposal was regarding hunting black bears in their
14 dens, and that's also just within Gates of the Arctic
15 and it affects mostly the communities south of Gates of
16 the Arctic.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
19 that. So in regard to the decline of sheep within the
20 areas near Anaktuvuk Pass, that that community bag
21 limit hasn't changed to date I don't think. I've never
22 heard any reports.

23

24 MS. OKADA: So to date no proposal has
25 been submitted to change Anaktuvuk Pass' community
26 harvest hunt of 60 sheep.

27

28 I'd like to point out that as we met
29 with the sheep hunters in the community, on average
30 they maybe harvest up to 25 sheep. As you probably
31 already know, when caribou don't come through, they
32 tend to target Dall sheep a lot harder. But overall
33 there's only a handful of sheep hunters, maybe 15 at
34 the most, and so they really don't reach that 60 sheep
35 limit.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
38 that, Marcy. I just had to, just from my recollection,
39 bring it up to maybe apprise some of the Council
40 members as to where we are within that Gates of the
41 Arctic Dall sheep harvest. I know we've had that for
42 quite some time. And there's been changes over time,
43 and due to different circumstances. And continuing
44 with where we are today with the sheep, I just want to
45 make sure that we're not missing anything out of the
46 communications with directions from the hunters or from
47 the Service, Gates of the Arctic representatives in
48 terms of the management of sheep. I think there's been
49 fairly good communications. It's just the
50 representation from the communities is somewhat

1 lacking. I hope that gets filled in a short period.
2 And not having Sam here today, it's kind of -- we're
3 missing sort of a picture in our communications again
4 in terms of what he might have heard, and from being
5 part of their Subsistence Resource Commission and their
6 interim representative for Anaktuvuk Pass. I'm not
7 sure if there's been any communications to Sam from
8 representatives from the village or vice versa, having
9 been at the meeting. I'm not sure, was he present at
10 the Subsistence Resource Commission meeting?

11

12 MS. OKADA: So our meeting in November,
13 Sam was not present. He wasn't I guess officially or
14 completely appointed, but I have been in conversation
15 with him regarding our AKP meeting in April, which we
16 hope that he would attend, because that would be a good
17 opportunity for him to talk with community members and
18 AKP.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Thank you.

21

22 MR. COMMACK: Mr. Chair. Thank you.
23 Louie Commack, chairman of Gates of the Arctic. The
24 representative is Taqulik from Barrow. She sits on
25 the commissioners. So she was well aware of all the
26 issues that come forth to the commission.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
31 that, Louie. I think through this Council we've
32 appointed Sam as an interim. But you're right, Taqulik
33 Hepa with the North Slope Borough, Department of
34 Wildlife Management sits on the Subsistence Resource
35 Commission as well.

36

37 And again not knowing what kind of
38 communications has occurred through Taqulik -- or
39 through Taqulik to the community or vice versa. If
40 she's heard concern, I've not heard any of that. So
41 that's where I'm trying to get at in terms of if
42 there's any concerns or issues that have been
43 identified through this communications.

44

45 Gordon.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
48 Gordon Brower for the record.

49

50 And I think it's important again as

1 we've got new members and wanting to understand clearly
2 how the process works, we listened yesterday under
3 break-out sessions of various different protocols in
4 place, and I don't know if that protocol is applicable
5 to you, like an .804 or something like that, and where
6 we currently stand today. There's a community harvest,
7 and what other restrictions have been placed on the
8 sheep hunt to other users. Where in the tier of
9 different things does Anaktuvuk come in? It has to be
10 somewhere in those three bullets, probably the top
11 bullet there, for a community. And why we're there
12 now.

13

14 I read some of this stuff, 2010, the
15 amount of surveys, 12,000, 10,000. And the concerns
16 raised by a lot of people, and especially I think over
17 caribou, might be similar, because we feel -- maybe
18 this is my own personal opinion, but maybe a larger
19 portion of the people feel this way, that management of
20 sheep has been abysmal. It's been everybody gets their
21 share of it, and not you, maybe under the State regime,
22 I don't know what other regime, that they didn't manage
23 it when it was unsustainable, and for other users.
24 They didn't stop other users.

25

26 Even the other day I joined a public
27 hearing that was going on in Kotzebue over this, and I
28 heard some other users say, if you're not going to
29 manage it for -- everybody should have access to the
30 caribou. And if they're not, then nobody should. And
31 that's some of the worse comments I've ever heard,
32 because people have to put food on the table, and
33 that's -- I don't want to go on and on, but I just
34 wanted to maybe for Steve's purpose, and I still want
35 to understand a little bit more where in the tier these
36 situation are we in.

37

38 Thank you.

39

40 MS. OKADA: So for a community like
41 Anaktuvuk Pass, in regards to hunting Dall sheep in the
42 proper part of the park, only resident zone communities
43 like Anaktuvuk Pass can hunt sheep. It's just
44 northeast of them in Itkillik Preserve where
45 sporthunting is allowed. What we've noticed is there's
46 no overlap between sporthunters and the residents of
47 Anaktuvuk Pass for the populations of sheep that
48 they're hunting.

49

50 They're not -- I mean, the regulation

1 as it stands is a harvest limit of 60 sheep, and that
2 was a proposal that was submitted in 1997 by Ben
3 Hopson, and it continues to this day. So the agreed
4 upon number was 60 sheep. The community harvest hunt
5 starts July 15th and it goes to December 31st. And
6 there has been no proposals submitted to change that
7 since then.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
10 that, Marcy.

11

12 Gordon.

13

14 MR. G. BROWER: Just to follow up,
15 would it be the community's that would provide a
16 proposal, or would you put in a proposal, or a
17 biologist put in a proposal? Let's just for example
18 purposes that your population estimates are drastically
19 declined in an area, and the -- I don't know if you use
20 the ANS, amount necessary for subsistence, or
21 harvestable surplus. I don't know how you calculate
22 what a community's needs are. And for the size and the
23 population of the sheep to be stable enough to support
24 that, much less having sporthunts on top of that. And
25 if they're hunting off of the same population count,
26 where is the threshold level, saying 10,000 is enough
27 to support the community plus the sport hunt, because
28 it's only one community, versus the caribou where
29 you've 80 communities in this one particular area.

30

31 MS. OKADA: So I'm going to ask Kumi
32 Rattenburi to kind of answer that threshold question
33 that you're asking regarding the population number and
34 what would be -- you know, how would harvest be
35 affected in the future if that number goes down.

36

37 MS. RATTENBURI: Mr. Chair and Council
38 members. This is Kumi again. And in regards to that
39 question, the area that was kind of outlined by the
40 sheep hunters in Anaktuvuk who hunt a lot of sheep,
41 there's not very many people who do, but the people who
42 do like to go out, and that's the purpose of that
43 community hunt. But the area that they typically hunt
44 in is, you know, between Chandler Lake, up the
45 Anaktuvuk River, down to Pulutuk (ph). And so it
46 doesn't encompass the entire park, which in 2010 did
47 have approximately 10,000 sheep, which is now down to
48 about 7500 sheep. So the area that they typically hunt
49 out of at the current time has about 1200 adult sheep,
50 so 1,200 adult sheep. And sheep don't migrate very

1 far, so although there's, you know, the possibility for
2 sheep to move across, you know, big river valleys and
3 that sort of thing, and because it's relatively
4 continuous habitat across Gates of the Arctic, there is
5 a bit of a buffer for any places where sheep are
6 hunted.

7

8 So in that area were folks in Anaktuvuk
9 are hunting sheep, with about 1200 adult sheep in the
10 area at this time, if they're harvesting 20 to 25
11 sheep, you know, it's still like two percent of the
12 adult population, which is what we have sort of figured
13 is a safe number for harvest. If they were to harvest
14 60, you know, that's closer to five percent of the
15 adult population, which can be an issue when the
16 population is declining. But because they are -- the
17 reported harvest is within this level that we think is
18 sustainable, then we basically have asked hunters there
19 to, you know, think about the fact that the decline
20 young sheep and ewes, the female sheep, more than it
21 did rams, if they could try to not harvest as many rams
22 at this time, and I think a lot of people have
23 voluntarily done that. And because the population can
24 currently sustain some harvest is part of the reason
25 why we haven't gone to restricting it through the
26 Federal Subsistence Board system.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
29 that, Kumi.

30

31 Gordon, did you have a follow up.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. You
34 know, it's important to understand these things, and,
35 you know, to give the benefit of the doubt to Council
36 members that want to learn and represent their own
37 community. I think Point Hope might have sheep
38 hunters, but a different part of the unit there.

39

40 And I think it's also important to
41 know, we shouldn't -- you know, we should be very
42 careful, especially when things are declining, to
43 manage it -- not manage it to where it's manage the
44 decline, but manage the users so that there won't be a
45 decline, and, in fact, it's sustainable so that it will
46 grow.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for

1 sharing that, Gordon. I think that's.....

2

3 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER:something
6 that we continue to strive for.

7

8 Steve.

9

10 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. You know, Point
11 Hope used to hunt sheep, Lisburne area. We very rarely
12 see them nowadays. They're there, but they're real
13 rare. I don't know when the population, you know, and
14 the agencies -- you know, there used to be -- people
15 used to get sheep. I don't see very many people
16 getting sheep any more, you know. They're very rarely
17 seen at Cape Lisburne any more. I don't know if there
18 was studies done in that area, but sheep are very rare
19 in our area.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
22 sharing that, Steve. There are surveys that are done
23 within the DeLong Mountains, the Great Mountains near
24 Point Hope, so we do get information from the land
25 managers on both sides, either from Gates of the Arctic
26 or the Noatak area. I think they're -- I don't recall
27 the names of the refuges near that area. So there are
28 research that's conducted on sheep for near the DeLong
29 Mountains and near Point Hope.

30

31 Kumi, were you wanting to address the
32 Council.

33

34 MS. RATTENBURI: Yeah. I can talk
35 about that as well. So we've also done some more kind
36 of surveys in Noatak National Preserve, and in 2014 we
37 covered most of the DeLong Mountains and the lower
38 peaks and also the Baird Mountains which is south of
39 the Noatak River. So although we're not out on Cape
40 Lisburne, you know, we're keeping track of what's
41 happening in Noatak and some of the area outside of it.
42 And there is, you know, a large decline there as well.
43 And because those populations are more isolated,
44 there's more of an issue, and that's why those hunts,
45 both the State and Federal hunts are closed, and they
46 have been for the last few years, and that will
47 probably continue until numbers pick up again.

48

49 So this summer, 2015, we surveyed the
50 western Baird Mountains, which is east of Noatak, north

1 of Kotzebue. And in that area there might be 200 to
2 250 adult sheep, and that's a lot lower than what there
3 used to be a few years ago. And the decline there and
4 also what happened in northeastern Gates of the Arctic
5 and some other parts of the state has happened pretty
6 quickly, probably related to some weather events. It's
7 not related to hunting pressure, but at this time the
8 populations of sheep in the DeLong and Baird Mountains
9 in Noatak are so low that any harvest could have a
10 negative impact.

11
12 And Denali, Denali also did a survey
13 this year, this summer, and they last did a similar
14 survey in 2011, so they've shown a slight decline there
15 as well. And that's, you know, inside the hard park,
16 so there's no hunting of those sheep. So the decline
17 happened in various places in the state, more in the
18 northern part of the state than the southern of the
19 state, and affected, you know, populations that do have
20 some hunters, and also places where there's not. So
21 that's why it's related -- or one of the reasons that
22 we think it's related to something else. And
23 especially the weather, that which affected Dall sheep
24 populations across their range, including in Canada.

25
26 But right now Gates of the Arctic is
27 looking a lot better. The number of lambs was higher
28 than average this summer across the park, including the
29 area around Anaktuvuk and the Itkillik Preserve, which
30 is where the sporthunting is permitted. But in Noatak
31 we saw a continued decline between 2014/2015, and low
32 lamb numbers again this summer. But we'll be surveying
33 that area annually, and also the area around Anaktuvuk
34 and Itkillik annually.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Is that it, Kumi?

37
38 MS. RATTENBURI: That's it, but I can
39 answer any other questions that folks may have.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for the
42 information shared.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

47
48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: In this area we have
49 multiple planning events that are contributing to
50 concerns around this. There has been discussion around

1 the transportation planning efforts, and the road to
2 Ambler, and concerns about what is that going to do to
3 our migration into the north and also other activities
4 that are occurring in the Eastern Interior. It's just
5 really important that we get communication occurring
6 between the communities. When we were at a BLM
7 meeting, there was a request to get Anaktuvuk Pass and
8 Nuiqsut along with Ambler Village to discuss some of
9 these concerns. And I just wanted to bring that out
10 that we need to find some resources to help get these
11 communities interacting and discussing, because we are
12 in areas of the map that do not include us in
13 discussions in areas of the map that are outside, but
14 the movement of our animals are very important.

15

16 Thank you.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
19 sharing that, Rosemary.

20

21 Any other question, comment. I'm just
22 going to get Gordon -- Louie, go ahead.

23

24 MR. COMMACK: Thank you. Rosemary,
25 thank you for the comment. We would encourage the
26 North Slope to be more active in the discussion on
27 Ambler Road. It's going to impact all of us. As you
28 are aware that the Seward Peninsula, Western Arctic,
29 and the North Slope, we share just about the same
30 caribou. If the Ambler Road is to be built, it's going
31 to have adverse effect on all of us. Western Arctic,
32 we're right in the middle of North Slope and Seward.
33 These are -- and as a chair, I encourage you guys to be
34 more active in the discussions that are forthcoming,
35 and that have been going on within the Park Service.

36

37 So thank you.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
40 sharing that, Louie.

41

42 Gordon.

43

44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I wanted to go
45 back to the sheep stuff and the concerns about Point
46 Hope in that particular area. And some of the
47 statements, Marcy, you mentioned about it's a big
48 valley in these areas where sheep in this area may be
49 moving from corridors. And is that also the same
50 corridor close to Point Hope? Is that where -- or is

1 that isolated enough where you're worried about the
2 sheep independently? Because from what the lady on the
3 phone said, there is no hunt at all for that,
4 subsistence or otherwise, because of, what, 200 sheep
5 or something in that area. And I just wanted to hear
6 if that's what you're talking about as well in terms of
7 that corridor where they might replenish or get
8 additional sheep moving in that area, or is it so
9 isolated it's independent, that they've got to
10 reproduce independently from that stock?

11
12 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. I know there
13 was a study that Kumi could share a little bit more
14 information about. Dall sheep tend to -- they're not
15 migratory species, so they are somewhat isolated
16 population, but Kumi could probably share a little bit
17 more information.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did you hear the
20 question, Kumi?

21
22 MS. RATTENBURI: Yeah, I'm hear. So
23 I'm not as familiar with Cape Lisburne, but I think
24 originally I heard it -- other than they may get
25 repopulated from the (Indiscernible) Peak sheep, which
26 are, you know, connected to the DeLong sheep that are
27 up in the upper Kugururok and Trail Creek area.
28 However, there's a big break between that area and
29 Gates of the Arctic. So it's not likely that sheep are
30 coming over from Gates of the Arctic to help replenish
31 the DeLongs. And it's the same case in the Baird
32 Mountains by the Village of Noatak, that those sheep
33 are isolated from Gates of the Arctic. There's hardly
34 any sheep in the eastern Baird Mountains. And also Lee
35 Anne Ayres did her thesis on the 80 (Indiscernible)
36 card sheep in Kaktovik, the DeLong Mountains, and the
37 Baird Mountains. And they saw no movement of sheep
38 across the Noatak River back and forth between those
39 mountain ranges. So those areas are isolated from
40 Gates of the Arctic of the Arctic.

41
42 And when I was talking about sheep
43 crossing river valleys, I meant more like they'll cross
44 the Anaktuvuk River in the mountains, or they'll all
45 cross the Itillik River, they'll cross the John River.
46 So in general they stay in the mountains and don't go
47 across those valleys, but they do make those movements
48 in Gates of the Arctic, and that's why there's a
49 potential for that area to be considered sort of
50 contiguous, and those sheep move around enough that

1 possibly they, you know, serve as a reservoir for
2 different areas that might become -- that might
3 decline. But that's -- the places that you're talking
4 about out west are definitely isolated.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
7 that, Kumi.

8
9 Eva, I'd just like to note to see if we
10 have any of that research information within our
11 materials. I'm not sure if we do or not. Just a
12 handout I see for the Gates of the Arctic is what was
13 provided. But does -- then the question regarding
14 sheep near Point Hope and that information, or the
15 research we don't have before us.

16
17 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
18 No, just specifically we had the information for Gates
19 of the Arctic at this meeting, but if the Council would
20 like more information from the Point Hope region and
21 the DeLongs, certainly we can follow up with both Kumi
22 and Ken Adkisson in that region in terms of
23 communications with the community.

24
25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, I think it
26 would be very helpful for the Council members to have
27 that information as well, because it's -- we're kind of
28 spreading out the discussion point from the subject of
29 sheep to across the mountain range, so I think it's
30 important that we try to be inclusive of the other
31 areas where we take sheep, and we get into these
32 discussions. But I think that would be very helpful if
33 we did the numbers and received some information on the
34 numbers and where these gaps are in terms of, you know,
35 the sheep not moving from one mountain range to the
36 next. I see the small picture on the bottom, but I
37 think it's missing a portion or a segment near Point
38 Hope, because I see it goes up to Kotzebue, Kivalina.
39 The next community would be Point Hope, which is not
40 identified there. And then I did not find the DeLong
41 Mountains, and the other mountain range where the sheep
42 were residing. I think that might be important
43 information that we need to help in terms of the
44 communications that we're having now.

45
46 Tom.

47
48 MR. EVANS: So we.....

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: State your name

1 for the record, please.

2

3 MR. EVANS. Hi. My name is Tom Evans
4 for the record.

5

6 And we did have a proposal, WP16-66,
7 that did have some information on the DeLong Mountains
8 and some of the biology of that. So that we covered in
9 the fall RAC meeting. So there is some information
10 there that's in your past books that you could look up.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Regarding the
13 DeLong Mountains you're identifying?

14

15 MR. EVANS: Yeah. DeLong Mountains,
16 primarily that proposal was dealing with the DeLong
17 Mountains, but there is a map and stuff in there that
18 shows the area that we're looking at, and kind of gives
19 you an idea of the separation between the DeLong and
20 Baird Mountains and the Schwatka Mountains and the
21 populations in the Gates of the Arctic.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
24 that, Tom.

25

26 Maybe I'd look to Eva to help get some
27 material for Steve. Since he wasn't at our last
28 meeting, I think it might be of interest to him to
29 review some of the contents of that material to apprise
30 himself on what's happening and what's being proposed
31 for change within his area that he represents. Eva.

32

33 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
34 Absolutely. I can make a copy of those analyses, those
35 proposals from the fall meeting which the Council just
36 took up in Anaktuvuk Pass and get those printed either
37 tonight or tomorrow so that you've got it for Friday.
38 I believe Ken Adkisson was going to be participating on
39 Friday for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd session, as
40 well if you had questions for him directly.

41

42 When the Council took up this
43 particular proposal addressing sheep in that region,
44 one of the requests was for on-going communications
45 from the Park Service to the Council, and also
46 specifically to Point Hope to make sure that Point Hope
47 was included in that outreach. And so that's part of
48 the recommendation that's going before the Board at
49 their spring meeting from this Council.

50

1 But I'll make a copy of those analyses
2 so that you have that this week.

3
4 Thank you.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
7 that, Eva.

8
9 Just trying to review again, getting
10 back to the discussion point we're on, sheep. At this
11 moment we did National Park Service. Council members
12 have any other questions regarding the information
13 presented.

14
15 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve.

18
19 MR. OOMITUK: You know, my grandfather
20 lived at Cape Lisburne. You know, my grandparents on
21 my dad's side, on my mom's side, and they have sod
22 houses over there. In 1950s they were kicked out of
23 there. They bulldozed his house, burned it, and told
24 them they had to move. The military moved in there.
25 You know, he always told me stories about his younger
26 days, you know, about living there, because there was a
27 lot of people in Point Hope. Point Hope boundary lines
28 got Cape Thompson, Cape Lisburne, you know, up the
29 river. But they would always go to (In Inupiaq) time,
30 whaling time, they go to Point Hope. But the abundance
31 of animals that were there, you know, that's why they
32 lived up there, too. They were the outskirts of Point
33 Hope.

34
35 But since the military and the radar
36 station's there, and the pollution that they -- you
37 know, Project Chariot, all these things. You know,
38 we're just finding out a lot of things there, you know,
39 they're still -- we're trying to get things
40 declassified, you know, the Federal government, they've
41 got a lot of top secret stuff, what they buried there,
42 and the studies they did.

43
44 You know, they always said Point Hope
45 people like to hunt the caribou in the dark, because
46 they glow. We have a high rate of cancer there. Our
47 young people. Elders.

48
49 You know, we're still trying to find
50 out and declassify some information of what the

1 military did. They were just there recently a couple
2 years ago, and we didn't realize they were there. They
3 were digging out stuff that we didn't even know.

4

5 Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Steve
8 for sharing that information.

9

10 I look to the Council in regard to the
11 discussion points again in regard to the National Park
12 Service.

13

14 Maybe, Marcia, did we miss anything
15 that you wanted to share or get some insight on from
16 the Council specific to proposals or proposed changes.

17

18 MS. OKADA: No, I think that's it, Mr.
19 Chair. I'd still like to quickly cover accessing
20 Native allotments in Gates of the Arctic.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Louie.

23

24 MR. COMMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

25

26 2015 the Chairs had a statewide
27 meeting, and one of the items, issue related was --
28 I'll read it to you from my notes and my minutes. The
29 SRC discussed the possibility of a superintendent
30 delegated authority for Dall sheep management within
31 the Gates of the Arctic. A proposal for any delegated
32 authority which have not been submitted to the Office
33 of Subsistence Management.

34

35 This was discussed, because in Unit 23
36 we shut down the whole sheep hunting, because of
37 declining numbers, hardly anything left. So much
38 pressure on sheep hunting within our region, and I see
39 that coming in to the other region, to your region. So
40 this has been a discussion on the statewide level
41 within the -- if you would like to say something, Greg?
42 Maybe me could explain.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

45

46 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Council. My
47 name is Greg Dudgeon, and I'm the superintendent for
48 Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

49

50 And as Mr. Commack has mentioned, at

1 the time when the sheep populations in Unit 23, in the
2 Bairds and DeLongs we're really looking minimal as Kumi
3 Rattenburi has been describing. I know that we had a
4 lot of discussions with our colleagues in Kotzebue, the
5 National Park Service Staff there, and they're in a
6 very different situation as I think Kumi helped
7 describe on the telephone. And, of course, there
8 you're talking about a sheep population that's open to
9 sporthunting as well as to local hunting, because it's
10 not within a national park.

11
12 Gates of the Arctic, we're in a very
13 different situation, because most of the area is
14 national park, meaning that the area is only available
15 for hunting for rural resident residence home community
16 members, people living in Anaktuvuk Pass, and Alatna,
17 Allakaket. And so whereas they had to take a more
18 conservative approach if you will, the Staff in
19 Kotzebue, working for the national park areas that are
20 managed from there, we looked at the number of sheep in
21 Gates of the Arctic that Kumi was describing, and also
22 took into account the fact that the people of Anaktuvuk
23 Pass have not come close to that threshold of 60
24 animals, and just felt that it wasn't -- we were not in
25 the situation that was as dire to the west, and so as a
26 result we took what we thought was a hands-off
27 approach, wanting to see what would happen with the
28 populations in those ensuing years. And I think as
29 you've seen in the report that we've provided, the
30 numbers have actually improved these last couple of
31 years in Gates of the Arctic. And so we've maintained
32 the status quo.

33
34 But as Louie's mentioned, we take our
35 subsistence responsibility, management responsibility
36 very seriously. And if and when and should we get to a
37 scenario where the opportunities are limited for the
38 local rural residents who depend on those animals, be
39 they sheep or what have you, then we have these kind of
40 administrative tools available to look at, and
41 determine whether or not we need to take those more
42 aggressive approaches.

43
44 So I think that answers Louie's
45 question as to why we are where we are right now, which
46 is status quo. And actually the sheep numbers in Gates
47 of the Arctic are actually looking better, and we will
48 hope for improvement for the animals and for the people
49 further west where obviously the situation is not as
50 good quite frankly.

1 Thank you.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
4 that, Greg.

5

6 Steve.

7

8 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Mr. Chair. You
9 know, and you say national park and the state park; is
10 one Federal and one State lands or Federal lands, is
11 that?

12

13 MR. DUDGEON: Well, the National Park
14 Service has different types of units in Alaska, and so
15 a national park or a national monument, those lands are
16 not open to people living outside of the area for
17 hunting. Only rural residents within the local
18 communities, people who reside and are residents of
19 local communities can harvest within national parks and
20 monuments.

21

22 That's not true of national preserves.
23 Congress established national preserves, including two
24 areas within the bright line boundaries of Gates of the
25 Arctic that are preserves, that are open to subsistence
26 hunters, but also to general hunters or to
27 sporthunters. And so most of Gates of the Arctic is
28 national park, and so therefore only available to rural
29 residents for harvest, unlike Noatak National Preserve,
30 which is open to general or sporthunting as well as to
31 subsistence hunting.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
34 Steve. Thank you.

35

36 Gordon.

37

38 MR. G. BROWER: It's good to have
39 questioning, put people on the hot seat.

40

41 (Laughter)

42

43 MR. G. BROWER: And it's the same kind
44 of questioning I had earlier, and I think Marcy -- and
45 it was good to understand a little bit more, too,
46 because I was wondering where the divide was, you know,
47 the preserve versus the monument. But they're all
48 Federal land, right?

49

50 My concern is always going to be the

1 same, it's to having sustained yield principle, meaning
2 that you should have enough -- when there's enough
3 resource to allow the subsistence, you know that
4 threshold level. When you know that, and you manage it
5 for subsistence, when it's at that level, you're still
6 allowing for it to grow. Then you should have a
7 threshold level for everybody's use, for the guides.
8 Subsistence would be maybe a much larger number so that
9 it wouldn't be -- even though you've got the guides and
10 the subsistence, it wouldn't go down, other than for
11 sickness or some kind of sickness that animals get, or
12 the weather kills them off or something. And I still
13 wanted to try to understand what the -- how you do
14 that. How you make those determinations.

15

16 MR. DUDGEON: Yes. Mr. Chair and
17 members. Again Greg Dudgeon.

18

19 And so the National Park Service, which
20 is celebrating its 100th anniversary, it's birthday
21 this year, has been around a while. The model by which
22 national parks are managed in the Lower 48 states are
23 very different, as we all know, than Alaska. And
24 that's part of the reason why we're here. And for me
25 it's refreshing. I've spent all of my career with the
26 exception of two years in Alaska. And it was nice to
27 out in the hallway during our break and have a
28 conversation with people from eagle and Wiseman and
29 Anchorage and Kotzebue, people that we've, you know,
30 come across, worked with, talked with, gotten to know
31 over the years.

32

33 And as different all of our communities
34 are, we know we have a lot of similarities, too. And
35 one of the similarities for national park units in
36 Alaska is that we manage for natural processes. And
37 so we don't manipulate species for the benefit of
38 another specie, but we do, of course, want to make sure
39 that we're managing for healthy and natural processes,
40 systems, and populations. And so that's why
41 (Indiscernible), other scientists that we hire do these
42 surveys. And so we're constantly looking at
43 particularly those species that are important to not
44 only the ecosystem, but, of course, to rural
45 communities, residents. And so that's why the animals
46 that were reported on today, sheep, moose, bears, we
47 realize they're important aspects to the ecosystem.
48 They're also important aspects to the cultural identity
49 and livelihoods of the people in the areas.

50

1 Again, in a place like Gates of the
2 Arctic we've had the good fortune of not having to do
3 any kind of limitations, but if we have, say, a -- if I
4 understand your question correctly, if we have a
5 hunting guide that wants to do additional hunts in the
6 preserve, the portion where he's able to do that in
7 Gates of the Arctic, we're going to take a real hard
8 look at the numbers, and knowing the what we're do
9 right now, given the recent decline, even though things
10 look like they've been improving, I just can't imagine
11 that we would approve additional sporthunts, for
12 example, because again we have a concern to make sure
13 that we have a long track record of knowing populations
14 of different species, and if we're flung outside of
15 that bell curve, the norm, we're not managing
16 necessarily for their harvest, but we're managing for
17 that norm. And so that's what we're looking at.

18
19 I guess to help -- and maybe the short
20 answer to your question was, we try to get an
21 understanding of what the norm is in this day and age,
22 the 30-some years that we've been out there where we've
23 had responsibility, designated by Congress, to manage
24 that Federal area, and to do as little as we can,
25 because again it's about natural systems and processes,
26 but where we have to get involved, because we've gone
27 outside the norm for one reason or another. We've not
28 had to do that here, fortunately. But I guess the norm
29 is what we're -- is what is the answer that you're
30 looking for. And that's based on surveys that have
31 been done by professionals, both of the park Service
32 and Fish and Game and other agencies since those began.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
35 that, Greg.

36
37 Did that help, Gordon.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. It's
40 just important that we let them talk about it and to
41 kind of have an idea of what's being done, but it's
42 always real good to get reassured from those folks
43 putting the boots on the ground to do the right things.

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.
46
47 Steve.

48
49 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. I had a question.
50 You know, this year and last year we've seen such an

1 abundance of wolves being caught all across the North
2 Slope, you know, even in the Nenana area. I mean,
3 Point Hope people coming home with four, five wolves at
4 one time. You know, and the decline of the caribou is,
5 what, 230,000 from a herd of 400, the Western Arctic
6 Caribou Herd. It's 450,000 at high times. Do you
7 think the wolves are having some -- do you guys know
8 the population of the wolves, and, you know, the other,
9 the wolverines and wolves?

10

11 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair and members.
12 Again the Western Arctic Herd, of course, as we all
13 know, has been in decline now for about 10 years. And
14 I was out in Kotzebue during the high population years,
15 and it's difficult to see. But then again we know that
16 animals cycle as part of the way things work.

17

18 In terms of your specific question
19 about predators, we don't. You know, we do know that
20 wolves are one of those migratory species that, unlike
21 sheep, do move over long distances. And, of course,
22 the lower the number of caribou, the more likely the
23 impacts from all sources. But, no, the short answer is
24 we don't know what the wolf population is like out
25 there.

26

27 I can tell you, and there is in our
28 report for Gates of the Arctic, that we have been
29 looking at bears, however, in the southern part of the
30 Brooks Range within the bright line boundaries of the
31 park. And this spring we'll be having yet another
32 follow-up on that study which has been on-going for
33 three years now, trying to get a sense of population
34 dynamics and the movement of brown bears. So while we
35 have no good data on wolves, we'll know a little bit
36 more about brown bears.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
39 Steve?

40

41 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. Thank you.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Any
44 other comments, questions from the Council to Marcy and
45 Greg.

46

47 (No comments)

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was looking
50 through -- I'd like to ask a couple of questions in

1 regard to the presentation. I see you've presented on
2 bears and Dall sheep, but I didn't catch any
3 information on moose or caribou until Greg mentioned
4 something here. Did you have something of that
5 information, Marcy, or is it just specific to these two
6 resources noted in your paper in the booklet.

7

8 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. Council
9 members. So on Page 32, there is a summary on moose
10 and caribou. The moose survey was mostly on the, I
11 would say, Alatna, John, and north fork of the Koyukuk.
12 So not in the North Slope Borough area, or Unit 26.

13

14 And then in regards to caribou, our
15 caribou biologist -- as you already know, caribou are
16 radio collared at Onion Portage in conjunction with
17 various agencies. And so most of the data actually
18 comes from the State, and that's why that summary is so
19 brief.

20

21 I do have some journal articles with me
22 that our biologist, Kyle Joly, has published, and I
23 could share those with you. And then also he won't be
24 available for the discussion on the Western Arctic
25 Caribou Herd and Teshekpuk Herd on Friday, but he's
26 always accessible via email.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
29 you, Marcy. The thing I was wanting to see if maybe
30 the residents of Anaktuvuk were taking moose. I just
31 haven't heard since our fall meeting about the
32 community taking moose. And I was wondering -- as you
33 stated, the information provided on caribou is very
34 brief, and I was wanting to identify with the boundary,
35 you know, when they're going across to the other side.
36 Are they seeing noticeably difference in the caribou
37 availability, or is it that they're not having a
38 presence as well on the south side of the Brooks Range.

39

40 MS. OKADA: Mr. Chair. So we've been
41 hearing from communities, residents of Allakaket,
42 Alatna, caribou has been scarce down there. On
43 average, you know, it's been about 10 years they have
44 not seen caribou. Caribou don't pass through in their
45 area. They do have a Ray Mountains Herd down south.
46 If anything, the communities of Hughes and Huslia have
47 seen caribou trickle through. So Allakaket and Alatna
48 folks head that way to go harvest caribou. But they're
49 by no means abundant in that area.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Marcy.
2 Yeah, I'm just not hearing so much about the south
3 side, and we hear a lot about what the issues are on
4 the north side. But once they get across the mountain
5 range, there must be some movement swaying one way --
6 either east or west as they're coming down the
7 mountain range, and maybe there could be some
8 opportunity for the residents, but I don't know the
9 distance, you know, just from the pictures and
10 depictions on maps in terms of what kind of traveling
11 would have to occur to get to the south side of the
12 Brooks Range for people from AKP if there was caribou
13 to the south of them. I know I've heard in the past
14 about caribou coming from the south and going into
15 Anaktuvuk or near Anaktuvuk, and they were able to take
16 resources then, but I haven't heard of that for quite
17 some time, you know, and caribou coming from the south
18 and near Anaktuvuk. I thought I'd bring that up,
19 because it's something I think I recall from past
20 meetings that we've heard about this type of activity
21 occurring. And thank you for that presentation.

22
23 Anything other question, comments to
24 Marcy or Greg.

25
26 (No comments)

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you
29 very much for your presentation.

30
31 Gordon.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Was she going to do a
34 presentation or a little dialogue on access or
35 something like that on the concerns that Anaktuvuk had
36 raised.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, we could ask
39 Marcy to follow up on that.

40
41 MS. OKADA: I do have a presentation on
42 accessing Native allotments in Gates of the Arctic.
43 It's really the accessing Native allotments in the
44 National Park Service system overall in Alaska. And I
45 know this has been a long time coming. There's much
46 testimony in Anaktuvuk Pass regarding folks having
47 concerns about how to access their Native allotments,
48 and there's a brief on Page 31, and it just quickly
49 mentions ANILCA sections 1110(b) and 1110(a),
50 mentioning that we have to allow access to Native

1 allotments in Park Service units.

2

3 But really the crux of it is just how
4 do we allow access, and what the process is. Right now
5 access is allowed with motorboats, fixed-wing
6 airplanes, and snowmachine when there's adequate snow
7 cover.

8

9 And so that just is a quick brief, but
10 in the interest of time, I just want to share that we
11 did receive an application for a right-of-way in
12 January for an Anaktuvuk Pass resident to access her
13 Native allotment on the John River near (Indiscernible)
14 Creek. And that was received in January. Since then
15 I've sat down with her, and she's also one-fifth of an
16 heir, so there are other heirs to this Native
17 allotment, and explained the process with her, and
18 received the application. So now the environmental
19 assessment process begins. Communication with this
20 Native allotment heir will continue, and just kind of
21 give her updates on how things are moving along.

22

23 And I also sat down with folks that
24 also have -- that are heirs to other Native allotments
25 along the John River. And so are there any questions.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Follow up, Gordon.

28

29 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I think it's
30 important enough to ask questions, because, you know, I
31 don't hear the end of it. I work in land management
32 for the North Slope Borough, and I hear it from the
33 North Slope Borough level on top of hearing it on a
34 RAC. So I think there's considerable concern about the
35 continued use of these Native allotments in a way
36 that's meaningful to the allotment owner.

37

38 And it's -- you said the person that
39 applied is a one-fifth heir, and I'm hoping the
40 application is for their use, their family's use, to be
41 able to go there. And if there's another allotment, it
42 seems to me that you would want to work together it
43 seems like in the same general direction, a common
44 route for it that should be proposed.

45

46 Those would be my concerns. And I
47 think from what we've heard over many years is the
48 constant battle, because there are peak subsistence
49 periods when the animals are in good shape, and then
50 when they pass through, because they're moving. And

1 that's part of their wish, because sometimes they could
2 go that way, and they know the caribou are plenty there
3 versus the other, they had already moved out of another
4 area. But just the means of accessing was a big, big
5 concern to them.

6
7 MS. OKADA: So the person that
8 submitted her application for a right-of-way was doing
9 so on behalf of her other family members who are heirs.
10 And, of course, she wouldn't be traveling down to her
11 Native allotment alone. And so I did share with her
12 that she would be submitting an application for her
13 entire family and also those other heirs. And she is
14 requesting access by Argo in the spring and summer,
15 mainly summer, down to her Native allotment.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
18 Gordon?

19
20 MR. G. BROWER: Very helpful, and I'm
21 glad, you know. It took a long time for somebody to
22 communicate with these people. It just seems it should
23 have been addressed day one to give them the process.
24 And it seems like it was a puzzle for years and years
25 and years, that they weren't given the resources or the
26 know-how how to achieve what they're attempting right
27 now.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
30 that, Gordon.

31
32 Bob.

33
34 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. Thank you.

35
36 Marcy, has there been any attempts in
37 the past by residents of Anaktuvuk Pass applying for
38 right-of-way certificates of access to their allotments
39 that has been denied either because of results from the
40 environmental assessment or because of faulty
41 application?

42
43 MS. OKADA: In regards to -- there was
44 interest by another individual who wanted to access her
45 Native allotment further south on the John River. We
46 were willing to sit down with her to work with her.
47 You know, the application isn't intuitive, it's a
48 government form. But that application was never
49 submitted.

50

1 And in my recollection, at least for
2 Gates of the Arctic, there has never been an
3 application submitted to access a Native allotment
4 within Gates of the Arctic.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
7 you for the response there, Marcy.

8
9 Council members. Any other questions
10 or comments to the presentation.

11
12 (No comments)

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, thank you,
15 Greg, Marcy.

16
17 MS. OKADA: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
18 Council members.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Louie, thank you.

21
22 So at this time we're near the lunch
23 hour. What's the wish of the Council. I think we have
24 three minutes to get ready for lunch. Should we take a
25 lunch recess at this time.

26
27 COUNCIL MEMBERS: Yes.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lunch recess until
30 one.

31
32 MR. KAYOTUK: Sounds like a good idea.

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We're on lunch
35 recess until 1:00 p.m.

36
37 Thank you.

38
39 (Off record)

40
41 (On record)

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Good afternoon,
44 everyone. Not knowing who's on line, but this is Harry
45 Brower, Chair of the North Slope Regional Advisory
46 Council. I'd like to call the meeting back to order of
47 the North Slope Regional Advisory Council this
48 afternoon.

49
50 We have now Jim Magdanz on -- I'm

1 sorry, Jim. Alaska University at Fairbanks. So I'll
2 give Jim the floor to provide his presentation at this
3 time. Jim.

4

5 MR. MAGDANZ: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
6 Thank you. My name is Jim Magdanz. I'm a graduate
7 student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, but I
8 have worked on subsistence issues for 30 plus years
9 with the Division of Subsistence at Fish and Game. And
10 they asked me to do an analysis of their subsistence
11 harvest data from the range of the Western Arctic
12 Caribou Herd, and so that's what I'm going to show you
13 today.

14

15 There should be two documents at your
16 table. One looks like this. It is a colored table
17 with -- there you go, the Chair has it. And the other
18 is the slides that are in this presentation. It's
19 called household harvest in the range of the Western
20 Arctic Caribou Herd. So does anyone not have those?
21 Okay. Good.

22

23 So the purpose of my presentation today
24 is to explore household caribou harvest patterns, to
25 explore sharing of caribou, and to consider how
26 households might change. The data come from survey's
27 conducted by the Department of Fish and Game in
28 cooperation with Kawerak and Maniilaq and communities,
29 and on the North Slope from 1998 through 2013. They
30 represent 37 communities, about 3500 households. And
31 then we have a sharing example that is based on data
32 from a single community, Wainwright.

33

34 I like to start with the human
35 population of the range of the herd, because at the
36 bottom line, caribou feed people, and how many people
37 are being fed is an important factor. And in 2014 the
38 Department of Labor estimated there were about 24,000
39 people in the range of the Western Arctic Herd. Barrow
40 and Kotzebue and Nome, the three regional centers,
41 accounted for about half of that. Unalakleet and
42 Galena, which are sort of in between in size, about 700
43 people in those communities, each of them. They
44 haven't changed very much. The regional centers have
45 had different trajectories. They have grown. And the
46 small communities have grown as well.

47

48 (Indiscernible - away from microphones)

49

50 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. So the human

1 population has grown slowly in the region from 1990 to
2 2014. Whoops.

3
4 So now the first part here summarize
5 the results of the household surveys. These are
6 estimated total harvest, meaning that if we don't
7 survey every household in a community, let's say we
8 survey 9 out of 10, then we expand our reported harvest
9 from the survey by 10 percent to account for the
10 unsurveyed households. And expansion is a way of
11 making sure that the total estimates are comparable
12 from year to year, because the sampling sizes change
13 from year to year. There's 146 separate surveys in
14 GMUs 21, 22, 23, 24 and 26. And it includes data from
15 several different projects.

16
17 Now, this is in a handout that you have
18 in front of you, and I wanted to talk for a minute
19 about what it shows. At the top of the handout we have
20 the three regional centers, Nome, Kotzebue, and Barrow.
21 The red bar is the total estimated harvest from each of
22 those communities, the average of several surveys. And
23 the blue bar on the right side there is the harvest per
24 person, basically the total estimate divided by the
25 estimated population of the community.

26
27 And then over in the left column you
28 can see how many surveys were taken to come up with
29 those estimates. In Kotzebue it was five. In Barrow
30 it was six. In Nome it was three. And the last time
31 that those communities were surveyed, at least for this
32 data, is in the newest survey column there.

33
34 Below the regional centers are all the
35 other smaller communities in the region. And I have
36 ranked those by the average per person, which is sort
37 of the measure of the community's dependence on
38 caribou.

39
40 And so you see the highest average
41 caribou harvest per person was in Deering, and it's
42 271. And Deering is -- it's 271 caribou, because
43 Deering is a relatively small community of 126 was the
44 average population when we did the surveys. So even
45 though their per person harvest is high, their total
46 impact on the harvest is low. And that happens because
47 Deering is right where the caribou have wintered in
48 some recent years. So just south of Deering. So it's
49 real easy for them to access caribou in the winter, and
50 so that's made their harvest relatively large.

1 A lot of the other communities as you
2 look down there, the NANA region communities and some
3 North Slope communities. Probably the community most
4 dependent on caribou relative to other resources like
5 moose or salmon is Anaktuvuk Pass where we've just
6 completed a survey and the preliminary results from
7 that show caribou is about 90 percent of Anaktuvuk's
8 harvest.

9
10 So there are a couple ways to look at
11 how much a community depends on caribou. One is what
12 I've shown here, their average harvest. Another is
13 what I'm not showing you, and that's the context, the
14 other resources that community harvests. So a
15 community that has lots of salmon or that has whales
16 might have a lesser dependence on caribou.

17
18 So on the other side of that sheet,
19 along the bottom, each of those blue circles is an
20 estimate of the caribou per person that was harvested
21 in one community in one year. And you see the scale
22 for that. Caribou per person is in blue along the left
23 side there. And the dotted line is a trend line, and
24 it represents the -- not exactly the average, but it's
25 a similar idea where over time, if harvests are
26 changing, that line will tip up or tip down. And what
27 that dotted line is telling you is that there's very
28 little change over time in the per person harvest of
29 caribou in the communities, the 37 communities that we
30 surveyed.

31
32 There are two of those X'd out dots up
33 there. Those are -- I mentioned Deering, one of those
34 is Deering where they have an unusually high harvest
35 because of their small size and their proximity to the
36 herd. Those do not -- they're outliers, I'm not
37 including those in the trend line that you see here.
38 I'll show you their effect in a minute.

39
40 At the top of this graph is the
41 estimate of the caribou herd population, and you can
42 see back in 2003 it was about 490,000. That was the
43 high point. But since then it has been declining, and
44 now we think it's perhaps even dipped below 200,000.
45 So what I take from this graph is that there's been a
46 substantial change in caribou populations, but the
47 human harvest in the range of the herd have not been
48 changing. At least we're not seeing it yet. So the
49 harvest, the human harvest is not sensitive to the
50 caribou population at this level of abundance. But as

1 the caribou decline, I assume it will be. It may
2 already be changing, and we don't see it in our data.

3
4 Here's a little closer look at that
5 bottom -- at that right hand chart, showing you the
6 harvest per person per community at the bottom, and the
7 total harvest -- excuse me, the total population of the
8 herd at the top.

9
10 And this is the effect of the trend
11 line on the outliers. The outliers actually make it
12 look like the harvest is increasing, but if you just
13 take those two data points out, it's a flat line. And
14 so I think those two data points kind of give you a
15 misleading sense of the trend, and that's why I show
16 you both.

17
18 Different game management units have
19 different trends over time. 22, we're seeing in the
20 survey data a slight decline over time. In 23 where
21 the outliers are, there's no change over time. 24, a
22 slight increase, but there's not a lot of harvest going
23 on. And then the North Slope, western North Slope,
24 26A, we're seeing a slight increase over time. But
25 remember, we don't survey every village every year, and
26 so if we happen to survey a low harvest or a high
27 harvest village in a particular year, in the first year
28 after that survey, it can have a big affect on the
29 trend line as we saw with our outliers a minute ago.

30
31 But the take-home message here is that
32 people in the range of the herd, we're not talking
33 about people that come from other places, just people
34 in the villages in the range of the Western Arctic
35 Herd, have been meeting their subsistence needs with
36 about 13,000 caribou annually. Even though more
37 caribou were available to harvest, they weren't taking
38 them. And overall this level of harvest appears to
39 have been steady during the last 25 years, but there
40 are regional differences. Looking forward, we may not
41 have 13,000 caribou a year to harvest.

42
43 So now I want to shift gears and talk
44 about harvest at the household level. This is the same
45 data set, but just looking at it a different way.
46 We're looking at individual household harvest. We're
47 not estimating these. These are actually what people
48 reported to us. And this data are good for under-
49 estimating pat -- or for understanding patterns of
50 harvest. The averages are comparable from year-to-

1 year, but not the totals.

2

3

4 So the vertical blue line that I drew a
5 box and an arrow to, that's the average for all areas,
6 about 3.6 caribou. At the time you see all the GMU 22
7 communities, the different areas in GMU 22. They're
8 harvesting below average in that area, just because of
9 availability. The caribou aren't there in the summer.
10 GMU 23, we see the Kobuk River and the northeast Seward
11 Peninsula, that would be Deering and Buckland and
12 Selawik. Kobuk River will be Noorvik, Kiana, Ambler,
13 Shungnak, Kobuk. That's where people really depend on
14 caribou. And then on the North Slope we have a variety
15 of harvest, but they're also harvesting above the
16 average on the North Slope, and Anaktuvuk, as I say, is
17 extremely dependent on caribou. So that's the big
18 picture regionally.

18

19

20 In any village households have
21 different levels of harvest. There's some households
22 that don't kill any caribou. There's some elders in
23 communities, there are young couples with small
24 children. They might not take any caribou at all.
25 Those households that kill no caribou actually overall,
26 it's a
27 surprisingly large number. It's about half, 48 percent
28 of households don't kill any caribou at all. About 30
29 percent of households kill one to five caribou. About
30 13 percent 6 to 10. And you can see how that scales
31 down, fewer and fewer households are harvesting more
32 and more caribou. So once you get to 21 or more
33 caribou per year, that's about 2 percent of the
34 households.

34

35

36 But when you look at how many caribou
37 in the total harvest each of those groups of households
38 accounts for, they account for similar levels. Those
39 households that were just two percent of the households
40 that killed 21 or more caribou, account for 19 percent
41 of the harvest. And obviously down at the bottom the
42 households that killed no caribou account for no
43 caribou.

43

44

45 So if we look at both of those
46 together, on the left I have the number of caribou
47 killed; on the right I have the percentage of
48 households that killed those caribou. And what you see
49 down at the bottom where I put a bracket are these
50 super-households. They're households that killed 6 to
20, and 21 or more caribou, are about 2 percent in each

1 group of the total population of households, but
2 they're accounting for 31 percent of the caribou. So
3 four percent of the households are killing about a
4 third of the caribou. This pie chart shows you exactly
5 the same data in a different way. Almost a third of
6 all caribou in the range of the Western Arctic Herd
7 were killed by four percent of the households.

8
9 So you think about reducing the
10 harvest, especially if you do it through a system where
11 you put a household harvest limits on or individual
12 harvest limits on, which is a typical approach. Those
13 households, those high harvesting, super-hunter
14 households, those are the ones that are going to bear
15 the burden of that regulatory change. The households
16 -- so if you put in a limit of, as I've heard people
17 discuss, 20 caribou per year, the dark red portion of
18 this chart, all those households aren't going to be
19 affected at all by that. What will be affected by that
20 are those four percent of households that are
21 harvesting all of those caribou.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Would you mind
24 taking questions as we go?

25
26 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah, I can do that. At
27 your pleasure.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Harry Brower for
30 the record.

31
32 Just the previous high harvesting and
33 the percentage of households that are taking these
34 caribou, you identify the households that kill the
35 caribou, but then they -- I think the other message of
36 that, they're killing them for food to bring home for
37 the communities. And I think that sends a little bit
38 of a different pictures. It's just not killing the
39 caribou, they're bringing them for food to the
40 community that sustains -- that kind of helps sustain
41 the community for these when you're discussing the
42 super households. I think that needs to be reflected
43 in a sense, because if we just kill caribou, it's just
44 like we're just knocking them down for just to kill a
45 caribou. But I think the message needs to be clear
46 that these are animals that are being taken for food by
47 these households.

48
49 MR. MAGDANZ: Yes. Thank you, Mr.
50 Chair. Absolutely. These are subsistence harvested

1 caribou. It's not trophy hunting; it's food hunting.
2 And those caribou are coming back to the villages and
3 being redistributed. And, in fact, that's exactly what
4 I'm going to talk about next.

5

6 MR. G. BROWER: Question.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

9

10 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. And it's a
11 little bit concerning when you start saying that's the
12 bracket's going to be the most -- what did you say?

13

14 MR. MAGDANZ: Impacted.

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: Impacted. When
17 sometimes I'm categorized, I guess if you look at that
18 as a super-household, because I have to feed my whaling
19 crew, and I feed my family, then I have (In Inupiaq).
20 I've got to feed the entire town. I just don't give
21 them muktuk and (In Inupiaq). I have a lunch for 2,000
22 people. And these are some of the traditional things
23 that need to be incorporated, because there are some
24 super-households like that, that hunt like that.

25

26 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

29

30 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes. This is also a
31 very important contributing factor for the wellness of
32 our communities. One of my sons is one of these super-
33 hunters, but in his spring harvest last year when he
34 got six caribou, he shared it with 19 houses. And
35 those are the kind of datas that are not incorporated
36 into your slide presentation. We have super-households
37 that are doing the harvesting, but you're not
38 distributing how many houses they're contributing to.
39 If he were to go out this next year and try to do that,
40 he would be illegal. And those are some of the
41 questions that we are having to face right now. He
42 traveled over 300 miles, went through three villages,
43 in his effort to harvest. He shared within all three
44 of those villages. But it's really important that as
45 data is being developed that these kinds of concerns,
46 where do we put the discussion to help us change the
47 view that others can use against us in different ways.

48

49 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you. Excellent
50 comment. I think the third part of this presentation

1 will enjoyable, because I think we're going in the same
2 place. I'm not showing you with any criticism of this
3 pattern whatsoever. This is just what happens. And I
4 think it's important to understand that it happens, but
5 you're telling me why it happens, and that may be even
6 more important. And what we've tried to do with the
7 project that we've done in Wainwright is explore
8 exactly what you're talking about, the sharing system.

9

10 So with the pleasure of the Chair, let
11 me move ahead, and let's see where we go.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee.

14

15 MR. KAYOTUK: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I just
16 had a question. I notice you didn't have Kaktovik on
17 there. I guess you did not consider that as a western
18 range in that portion area?

19

20 MR. MAGDANZ: That's correct. I mean,
21 the patterns that we talk about, one could do that for
22 Kaktovik, but it's not a Western Arctic Herd community.

23

24 MR. KAYOTUK: Thank you.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Continue, Jim.

27

28 MR. MAGDANZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

29

30 So the third and final part of the
31 presentation here is an example of the cooperation
32 which you have just been talking about. The data here
33 come from one community, Wainwright, but you could do
34 this for any community in the range of the Western
35 Arctic herd. We have done it for Kaktovik, and I've
36 done it for several in Northwest Alaska.

37

38 In Wainwright in 2012 we surveyed with
39 help from local people there 147 of 153 households. We
40 talked to almost everybody. The data we're collecting
41 with household surveys, and our goal was to show -- we
42 call it the sharing project -- was to show the
43 cooperative harvest and sharing of all resources, not
44 just caribou, but all resources in the community.

45

46 One thing that was unique about the
47 Wainwright project was that we asked people not only
48 who shared with them, but how much they shared, which
49 is time consuming information to collect. We paid
50 households about \$100 an hour for a two-hour survey to

1 sit through this, so that we could collect amounts. So
2 we couldn't say what I'm about to say for every
3 community where we have network data, but that's one
4 reason I'm showing you Wainwright.

5
6 This is one page from a 105-page
7 survey, but I wanted you to see the questions that we
8 asked, the very detailed questions that we asked to put
9 this together. So this is a page that asks about
10 caribou. Four people living in the household that we
11 were surveying at that moment. And the basic question
12 was did anyone living in your household kill caribou
13 for your household last year, and if they said yes,
14 then we asked who killed the caribou that your
15 household used last year and how many caribou did this
16 person kill for your household, and who else in the
17 household hunted with this person. Now, remember,
18 these are just members of the household.

19
20 Then we had another page that we asked
21 did anyone living in your house get a share of caribou
22 for hunting with other households. So if they went out
23 together, say a young man might go out with his uncle
24 who live next door, or maybe two brothers would go out
25 hunting together. And so we asked who in your
26 household hunted with people from other households last
27 year, and what was the share that they brought home
28 from these cooperative hunts, and with whom did they
29 hunt. So we developed this network of hunting groups.
30 And we did this for six or seven species in the three
31 communities where we studied this. Caribou was one of
32 the species in every community.

33
34 Here's what it looks like from the
35 perspective of one household. This is real data.
36 Household 3 in Wainwright. And remember we asked the
37 household to tell us who they got a caribou from, not
38 who they gave caribou to, so they're remembering
39 caribou that came into their household. The blue
40 square is the household, the red dots around the
41 household are people, are individuals, they're all
42 coded, because we do this anonymously. Those are all
43 codes for people. So Household 3 got a total of 40
44 caribou from eight people, and those people included
45 Person 1 in Household 123, who got five household -- or
46 five caribou that they gave to Household 3. Person 4
47 in Household 29 got half a caribou for Household 3. It
48 was probably hunted with someone in Household 3. And
49 Person 1 who actually lived in the household got 15
50 caribou for is own household. So that's what it looks

1 like from the perspective of a single household.

2

3 And the sizes of the symbol are related
4 to the number of caribou that a person harvested or
5 that the household received.

6

7 So here's what it looks like from the
8 perspective of a super-hunter. Now we've got Person 1
9 in Household 1. He got 34 caribou for 21 households in
10 Wainwright.

11

12 And remember, he's not telling us that,
13 21 other households are telling us that. I think that
14 makes this much more compelling. It's not somebody
15 bragging about their hunting; it's households
16 recognizing the sharing that occurred. And I think --
17 we do that on purpose. I mean, it's really -- people
18 don't brag about their hunting. That's now how people
19 are. It's much better to be recognized for your
20 sharing than it is to be sort of patting yourself on
21 the back. And so I think this is a pretty clear
22 indication.

23

24 This is a super-hunter. Not everybody
25 looks like this obviously. And it just happened to be
26 the very first case that I looked at when I opened up
27 the data set and looked at Person 1. This is what he
28 looked like, and I says, okay, I'm done here. This is
29 good. It shows the picture. But I could do this for,
30 you know, probably 10 or 15 hunters in Wainwright would
31 look like this. Others wouldn't.

32

33 So we start putting this together,
34 combining now two households' caribou sources, and you
35 see that each of them has some unique sources, people
36 that contributed only to that household. But there are
37 also like Person 3 in Household -- Person 1 in
38 Household 3, who's down here at the bottom, he was
39 named by 2 households, both Household 3 and Household
40 29, as a source of caribou. That's really typical,
41 that people share with multiple households, and
42 households receive from multiple people.

43

44 And when you put it all together, this
45 is caribou in Wainwright. I can just look at this for
46 a while, and maybe that's what I should let you guys
47 do. But the idea is that caribou ties this community
48 together. The people and the houses in the center are
49 those who were named most often for sharing caribou, or
50 shared the most. And around the edges we have people

1 and households that received smaller amounts of caribou
2 from fewer people, and people who provided smaller
3 amounts of caribou for fewer households. So the center
4 of this network is a core of the caribou system.

5
6 But what you don't see in this diagram
7 is a disconnected group of households and caribou.
8 Now, if I do this for -- we also asked people who paid
9 for your fuel bills, who buys your groceries, who's
10 snowmachine did you use. If I do that for cash, this
11 network falls apart. People don't share cash in the
12 same way that they share wild foods. And I think
13 that's why it's so important, that these social
14 relations in these communities are what tie these
15 communities together. It's how people take care of one
16 another.

17
18 And the whale diagram would look
19 different, because you've got crews, and that changes
20 the whole dynamic with (In Inupiaq) and everything
21 else. So it's going to look different for crews.
22 Waterfowl's going to look different, too, but they all
23 connect the communities in a similar way, where most
24 households, or in this case all households are part of
25 the system.

26
27 (Indiscernible - away from microphones)

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ: So I'm not so close to
30 it? Okay.

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Jim, I have a
33 question. Just on the previous slide, you know, it
34 shows the availability of caribou to that community,
35 but then it could be -- it could also be used if you
36 were doing the survey in Anaktuvuk when the caribou are
37 not so available, and the lines wouldn't disperse as
38 much, because the resource isn't there, or not enough
39 animals being harvested to show the sharing that's
40 going on. And it gets -- and the presentation of that
41 depiction would get smaller. So you picked out the
42 Community of Wainwright where caribou have been
43 available to the community of the last 10 years I
44 think. They've had some years where they weren't so
45 available and had to travel greater distances and the
46 number of animals taken for food were in much smaller
47 numbers. I think that could be said for, you know, any
48 of -- if you were thinking of the bigger picture of the
49 other communities within the North Slope and how this
50 type of diagram would be reflected in Anaktuvuk or in

1 Point Hope. And that would -- you could see the
2 networks have changed over time with the resource's
3 availability.

4

5 MR. MAGDANZ: Absolutely. I mean,
6 you're writing my next research design, Mr. Chairman.
7 I think we need to do repeated surveys over time as
8 wildlife and fish populations change, and we would see
9 some of these changes. But this is a relatively new
10 method, and it's expensive. We actually are putting
11 together a proposal I think that we talked about with
12 the Whaling Commission in February to repeat this in
13 the next couple years in Wainwright and Kaktovik to
14 show those kinds of things.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Bob.

19

20 MR. SHEARS: One other thing that I
21 don't see quite identified here, but perhaps you
22 accomplished it in the mapping, there's a lot of super-
23 hunters that don't distribute their food directly to
24 other people, but actually work through a proxy,
25 typically a matriarch, because the matriarch are the
26 older, the elder female is given the harvest to
27 distribute, to redistribute. So therefore she can gain
28 honor in the system. The typical super-hunter will be
29 much more discrete and stand-off, and will, you know,
30 hide their success from the greater population this
31 way.

32

33 MR. MAGDANZ: No. Through Chair,
34 that's absolutely true. It's been three months since I
35 put this together, but I'm pretty sure that the
36 matriarch here who's not hunting is going to be
37 included as a source of caribou here, because there
38 will be caribou flowing out of her household to these
39 other households. Now, I can't be -- again I'm not
40 absolutely sure that that's represented here, but in
41 other diagrams that we've done where it's household to
42 household sharing, then the household will include --
43 may not include a hunter, but may in fact be a
44 significant source of caribou through a sharing
45 relationship where she would be named as a source.

46

47 So that is part of the design.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

50

1 amount of disruption to that traditional system while
2 conserving caribou. And one of the ideas I've tossed
3 out in some other sessions is that, you know, given
4 that just a handful of people in each village are
5 harvesting these high amounts of caribou, that really
6 talking to those people about how important their role
7 is, and if restrictions are necessary, those are the
8 people that if they don't follow the rules, then you've
9 got a problem for conservation. Those people need to
10 buy into whatever the RACs do, whatever the Federal
11 Board does, whatever the Alaska Board of Game does.
12 Your super-hunters really have to buy into that system.

13
14

15 I lived in Shungnak in 1979 and 1980
16 when the Western Arctic Herd limit was one bull per
17 person -- or per household per year. And I watched
18 sledloads of caribou come into the village. So it was
19 not a very effective management system at that time.
20 It created a great deal of political conflict. And
21 we're on the same path again in terms of the abundance
22 of caribou. I hope that we can choose a better path in
23 terms of the management of the human harvest.

24

25 So, Mr. Chair, that concludes my
26 presentation.

27

28 Thank you very much for your time.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you as well,
31 Jim, in terms of your presentation.

32

33 James.

34

35 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. What's the
36 definition of a super-hunter?

37

38 MR. MAGDANZ: I think you came in a
39 little late, right?

40

41 MR. J. NAGEAK: Yeah. I came in -- I
42 just got in here.

43

44 MR. MAGDANZ: Right. Well, let's back
45 up, because I think that's a really important question.
46 It starts here. There are some households that don't
47 kill any caribou in a community. Along the bottom I've
48 got about half of the households in a given community
49 that kill no caribou. And then up at the top we've got
50 a couple of households in every community that kill 21

1 or more caribou, other households that kill 16 to 20
2 caribou. And this data are based on about 20 years of
3 surveys in 37 villages, 3500 households.

4
5 When we look at the contribution of
6 those households to the total harvest, what we see are
7 those two percent of households that killed 21 or more
8 take 19 percent of the caribou. And in this slide I
9 put those two slides together. The super-households,
10 the ones that I'm calling super-households, are those
11 that killed 16 or 20 -- 16 or more caribou, 21 or more
12 caribou. Together those super-households accounted for
13 31 percent of the total caribou harvest. And looked at
14 it in another way as a pie. If that was a pie of
15 caribou, that two percent of households -- if you had
16 100 households in your village -- excuse me, four
17 percent. If you had 100 households in your village, 4
18 households would kill a third of the caribou. Those
19 are your super-households.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
22 James? Okay.

23
24 Any other questions, comments.
25 Rosemary.

26
27 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the things
28 that is not also showed through this is that the effort
29 it takes for the super-hunter to engage in the
30 documentation of how they're distributing. And the --
31 when we're having decrease in harvest, or decrease in
32 herd numbers, the increase in harvest effort to
33 maintain the harvest is also not displayed
34 appropriately. I think it's something that's growing
35 upon us, that we're going to have to look into,
36 especially with some of our changes that we foresee are
37 coming down with the ability to harvest in traditional
38 ways matching up against regulatory enforcement. But I
39 think we also have to look at the way that some of
40 these reports are put together and demonstrate that
41 these variables are not included, and it still needs to
42 be found a way to incorporate some of this, the way
43 things are changing, and that our families are really
44 work hard to get the harvest, and that's not shown at
45 all in the presentation.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
50 Rosemary.

1 Did you want to respond to that, Jim.

2

3 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, it's all true. I
4 have no disagreement with that.

5

6 MR. SHEARS: A comment, Mr. Chair.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Bob.

9

10 MR. SHEARS: We reduced our household
11 harvests from 80 to 40 animals between 2003 and 2007 by
12 eliminating eight dogs. And that maybe a key factor
13 you haven't looked into is the population of dogs in a
14 community contributes to the amount of caribou that
15 need to be harvested.

16

17 MR. MAGDANZ: On the State side, which
18 is where I worked most of the time, there were
19 proposals to make caribou legal for dog food, but it's
20 still not legal on the State side to feed caribou to
21 dogs, so there's that wrinkle, to take into account.
22 But, you know, absolutely caribou have been used to
23 feed dogs. It's certainly a customary and traditional
24 practice. It just hasn't been recognized as such.
25 Yeah. I mean, caribou have been dog food, and that's
26 something that villages and individuals have to decide
27 about how many dogs they can support in a caribou
28 regime where maybe not as many caribou was available,
29 and people might choose to make human food a higher
30 priority than dog food, or go to other alternative
31 sources of dog food, or, you know, reduce breeding, or
32 whatever you have to do. So yeah.

33

34 I mean, the caribou are so important
35 that they ripple through the economy. And when changes
36 in caribou happen, people have to adapt to them, and
37 they always have, and I'm confident they will this
38 time. It's just trying to make regulations that make
39 that adaptation possible and appropriate.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
42 Bob?

43

44 Steve.

45

46 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah, Steve for the
47 record.

48

49 How far back can you go with
50 populations of Western Arctic Caribou Herd? I mean,

1 you know, old stories we used to hear, the 1870s when
2 caribou population was so low that they introduced
3 reindeer into our communities, because the commercial
4 whalers, you know, they brought in reindeer from
5 Russia. Point Hope had a big herd in that area, you
6 know, in the thousands, the reindeer herd. Wainwright,
7 Barrow, Kotzebue, Nome. Yeah. And then in the late
8 50's or early 60's, the reindeer ran off with the
9 caribou. But, you know, is there documentation or any
10 record of the population of caribou in the early 1900s
11 when the reindeer herding was going on? Is there any
12 information on that? And, you know, what percentage of
13 the caribou are reindeer that are running around with
14 the caribou. Do you know anything about that?

15

16 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Oomituk, through the
17 Chair. Tylor Birch did a book, it came out about two
18 years ago, that looked at caribou in Northwest Alaska
19 over that long period of time that you're talking
20 about, the last two centuries. Jim Dau was the editor
21 on that book. Ega (ph) Akutnuk worked on that book.
22 So that would be the first place that I would look for
23 that kind of information. I'm not a biologist. I work
24 on the social side, on the human side. So if you have
25 Jim Dau or another biologist here, they would be able
26 to answer your question more specifically, so what I'm
27 saying is second hand.

28

29 Caribou herds change over time. For
30 example, it's pretty clear that in the 19th century
31 there was a herd on the Seward Peninsula. It was
32 probably discreet from the Western Arctic Herd. That
33 herd is one, and is now Western Arctic Herd, considered
34 part of Western Arctic Herd range, even though there's
35 a small group that's starting to winter. So one of the
36 challenges is that herd definitions change. The
37 Teshekpuk and the Western Arctic Herd intermingle, and
38 the Seward Peninsula Herd has disappeared.

39

40 There also is a cyclical nature to
41 caribou populations. As I think all the members of
42 this body are aware that the caribou abundance in the
43 past has probably been similar to the higher levels
44 that we saw 10 years ago, and it's probably also
45 reached some of the low levels that we saw in the 70s.
46 So it just cycles over time, the caribou cycle. And I
47 don't think there's any reason to think that the
48 numbers of caribou that we see in the range that we've
49 seen them in the last several generations is just
50 changing overall. And I don't know if climate change

1 is an outlier, but the -- I think the caribou
2 population as whole is over time within the ranges of
3 normal change. It's just a long cycle. It's a 30 or
4 50-year cycle of change, and we're entering one of the
5 valleys right now.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
8 Steve.

9
10 Gordon.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. I
13 look at the caribou harvest from community surveys in
14 the range of the Western Arctic Herd. It doesn't
15 mention anything about Teshekpuk Herd. Can you explain
16 that? Because I would think a lot of folks out of
17 Barrow harvest a lot of Teshekpuk Herd caribou. And
18 there are biologists that study these things, and we
19 get presentations, they are pretty distinct in what
20 they do from Teshekpuk and Western.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If you might,
23 please.

24
25 MR. MAGDANZ: Correct. These data come
26 from surveys of household, and the people that are
27 being surveyed may not know which herd the caribou came
28 from. The location of the kill is collected, the
29 timing of the kill is collected, so we know that it was
30 a September harvest on the Kobuk River below Ambler, so
31 we know that. The biologists look at that data to
32 estimate harvest by herd when they come up with their
33 models of the caribou herd.

34
35 In this presentation, we're looking at
36 harvest by community, and there is some small amount of
37 Teshekpuk Caribou in these numbers, and we haven't
38 tried to separate those out. That's not how the data
39 are stored in our system, but there are a few Teshekpuk
40 animals in here for communities that have access to the
41 Teshekpuk. But even Teshekpuk animals have shown up on
42 the Upper Kobuk. The collar data have shown a few
43 Teshekpuk come down, and so even Shungnak and Ambler
44 might have a few Teshekpuk animals in there.

45
46 Your point's well taken. These herds
47 have different trajectories. Some of them may be doing
48 well, the Western Arctic is in decline. So the
49 management regulations will be different I think for
50 communities that depend primarily on Teshekpuk as

1 opposed to communities that depend primarily on Western
2 Arctic. And those were the kinds of things that you
3 would want to take up with the biologists when they're
4 sitting at this table, so that you deal with that
5 complexity.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
8 Gordon.

9
10 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Thank
13 you for that, Jim.

14
15 James.

16
17 MR. J. NAGEAK: James Nageak for the
18 record.

19
20 You mentioned that Anaktuvuk hasn't had
21 any caribou for this winter even. And the caribou that
22 we are getting are from those hunters at Nuiqsut. Is
23 there any consideration for that household in Nuiqsut
24 that would have the leeway of going over their limit so
25 that they can participate in, not a give away, but, you
26 know, sharing their caribou with the people from
27 Anaktuvuk Pass.

28
29 MR. MAGDANZ: Well, Mr. Nageak through
30 the Chair. Right now with the Federal limit at 15 a
31 day, I believe that there isn't -- a household in
32 Nuiqsut wouldn't be limited by regulations as far as
33 sharing with other communities or other households in
34 Nuiqsut. But if household limits were imposed, then
35 the problem that you describe is something that the
36 Boards, the RAC would want to consider, what sort of
37 mechanism do you make for communities in these
38 situations. There isn't one right now, because we
39 haven't needed to because the harvests weren't limited.
40 But it's an important consideration for the RACs to
41 take moving forward.

42
43 MR. J. NAGEAK: That is especially if
44 the decline of caribou keeps going, you know. That's
45 something that we need to consider.

46
47 Thank you.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
50 that, James.

1 Did you have a response, Jim, or I have
2 another question.

3

4 MR. MAGDANZ: No, I'm good.

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Steve.

7

8 MR. OOMITUK: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9

10 I was looking through this. I don't
11 know if I missed it. You know, I know I came in late.
12 What's the numbers of the sporthunters taken from the
13 Western Caribou Herd.

14

15 MR. MAGDANZ: It's less than 10
16 percent, I think about eight percent of the total
17 harvest. I don't track the sporthunting harvest, but
18 it's relatively small. And there's a lot of sport
19 hunting activity in GMU 23, but I don't have an exact
20 number for you. But it's a small fraction of what
21 people in the range of the herd take.

22

23 MR. OOMITUK: So when you talk small,
24 what numbers is that? I mean, you see -- you know,
25 when you go into Kotzebue and you see more and more
26 hunters coming in by the planeloads, and, you know,
27 guides with planes dropping them off where we never see
28 them. Why isn't it being monitored? You know, are
29 they taking the -- it seems like they just -- when you
30 seeing them going, they're just going home with the
31 antlers, and where's all their meat at, you know. I
32 think they should be monitored, you know. I don't know
33 who's going to be doing this.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve, I could
36 reply. If there's going to be a monitoring for
37 sporthunting, it's through the State regulations.
38 There may be some through the Federal program, but I
39 think the majority of it's conducted through the State.
40 And the title of this presentation is household surveys
41 in the range of the Western Arctic Caribou, so these
42 are resident household surveys we're talking about.

43

44 But the concern, you know, you have a
45 good concern. I think that question can be answered --
46 I'm not sure if Lincoln is on air. President Lincoln,
47 are you up?

48

49 (No comments)

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: He was on this
2 morning, but I'm not sure if he's on this afternoon.
3 But I think we could raise that comment to the
4 appropriate folks and they could generate an answer to
5 the number of reported harvest from sporthunting.

6
7 Eva.

8
9 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
10 Lincoln will be here on Friday, and will be presenting
11 on the overall updates of the Western Arctic and
12 Teshekpuk herds. So Friday morning, 8:30 a.m. starts
13 the Western Arctic Herd caribou session. So you'll
14 probably be able to have a chance at that time to talk
15 to Lincoln.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
18 that, Eva.

19
20 I was wanting to ask the Council any
21 more questions to Jim regarding his presentation on the
22 household harvest in the range of the Western Arctic
23 Caribou Herd.

24
25 MR. SHEARS: Jim, could I have slide 20
26 up again. Slide 20. Okay. And Mr. Commack is
27 interested in addressing the Council for a minute.

28
29 MR. COMMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

30
31 In regards to Steve's questions on the
32 amount of sporthunters that enter Game Unit 23, the
33 data we've gotten is about 400 a year. And when you
34 translate into how many bulls or what type of animals
35 they consume, it's enormous. So that's the best I
36 could do. We've been asking that question for years.

37
38 On the concern about the meat, it's
39 been an ongoing issue in Unit 23 for the last 15 years.
40 We've know that a lot of people that fly hunters out,
41 whatever they do out there, you were reading the media
42 that they bring the meat back. In Kotzebue we've
43 gotten a lot of complaints that there's hardly any meat
44 that comes back, mostly antlers, and then you could get
45 the data from Alaska Airlines on the trophy hunters,
46 the antlers that are shipped out.

47
48 I hope that helps you, Steve.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Louie.

1 Jim, I just wanted to share just a
2 thought on when you were expressing during the last
3 slide here on Page 12, and some of the discussion point
4 regarding developing regulations, reflecting the super-
5 households as hunters, and how that might impact their
6 hunting practices, if it came down to where regulation
7 changes impact them. I was trying to identify with
8 what kind of flexibility, or what kind of language to
9 identify that flexibility to accommodate them as the
10 titles given the super-hunter household that sharing
11 and harvesting for people, widowers, elderly folks that
12 have been -- you know, that are not able to conduct
13 their hunt, and sometimes the ranges of distance that
14 they have to go through to take those caribou, if those
15 elders or the households noted are not able to traverse
16 that far to hunt because of their situations or their
17 ability. I'm trying to think a little ahead in terms
18 of how we could structure the language in the sense if
19 it was to get generated to reflect that issue of the
20 super-households that take a large portion of a harvest
21 for subsistence.

22
23 MR. MAGDANZ: Mr. Chair. Those are all
24 good points. The average harvest per household is less
25 than four caribou. Divide all the caribou by all the
26 households, it's less than four.

27
28 One of the tendencies for regulatory
29 bodies in my experience is that when they set
30 regulations, they tend to look at the average, and they
31 are inclined to set permit limits somewhere at the
32 average or below the average, which in this case would
33 be four caribou or three caribou, which would have an
34 enormous effect on a lot of hunters.

35
36 After the Western Arctic Caribou
37 Working Group met in December, I showed the same
38 presentation. And I took all the data that we had, and
39 I modeled different regulations. I imagined if we had
40 a limit of five bulls or if we had a limit of 15 bulls
41 and had applied that regulation in the past to the
42 harvest reported to us, and looked at what kind of
43 reduction in the harvest, the total harvest would
44 happen if we had a bag limit at these different levels.
45 If you want to change the harvest of caribou, reduce it
46 by 10 percent overall, you only need a bag limit of
47 about 25 per year. You don't need a bag limit of four.
48 Four reduces the total by 60 percent, from about 13,000
49 to about 6,000. So the first trap here is not to think
50 that the harvest limit should be anywhere close to the

1 average, because the harvests are distribution with
2 what they say a long tail, these super-hunters.

3
4 So Lincoln has this model. I shared it
5 with all the wildlife people, and I'd be glad to show
6 some of you if you're interested. We could put some
7 numbers in the model, and we can see what this harvest
8 limit would do. What would it do if we had 20. What
9 would it do if they were all bulls. What would it do
10 if they were 50/50 bulls and cows. We can play with
11 the model and see what comes out the other end in terms
12 of savings for conservation.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
15 that. Any other questions, comments to Jim. Rosemary.

16
17 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: One of the
18 discussions that I heard at the meeting here in
19 Anchorage when we were in our breakout process was
20 concerns from some of the hunters that utilize the fly-
21 in hunters and the usage at Happy Valley. The concerns
22 that some of these people that operate this way felt
23 that there were not enough caribou to go along with
24 their permits. Those kinds of things are very
25 important, as well as extrapolating where are these
26 permits being utilized at, and the timelines and what
27 other repercussions are happening around communities
28 that are being affected with poor harvests.

29
30 Another variable is also what
31 additional demands are being put on the super-hunters
32 to be legal, to be able to go out and harvest for 19
33 families, and whether or not that is something that the
34 hunters are willing to take on in order to help our
35 communities survive with the needs that we have upon
36 us.

37
38 And then the models that you
39 referenced, that is something that we need to have a
40 better understanding on as we're looking at these
41 additional regulatory changes that are -- will be
42 coming down with the changes in our herd numbers. But
43 this is something that we need to be able to understand
44 variables and how they contribute to the outcomes, but
45 also what is it going to do to our communities that are
46 trying to harvest, because it's a different process in
47 order to get information to get information to make a
48 report than it is to feed our families and make sure
49 that our nutritional needs are being met, because the
50 health of our people is why we're doing all of this

1 hard work with numbers and understanding. And I don't
2 want to lose out with all the fancy mapping that we can
3 get from this process. The basic is that we're trying
4 to make sure our families are being fed.

5
6 Thank you.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Any
9 other questions, comments for Jim.

10
11 (No comments)

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Again, thank you
14 very much for your presentation, Jim. It's very
15 helpful in understanding the household surveys, and the
16 use of caribou within our respective communities on the
17 North Slope.

18
19 Thank you very much.

20
21 MR. MAGDANZ: Yeah. Thank you for your
22 time, and I wish I could be here Friday. I have
23 previously committed to a meeting to talk about this
24 subject in Fairbanks with the North Slope and Northwest
25 Arctic Borough scientists group. But I'd be glad to
26 engage in dialogue as we move forward. I appreciate
27 your time very much. And I think that this is in good
28 hands. You guys know the problem, you understand the
29 communities, and I think you'll make good decisions.

30
31 Thank you.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you again,

34 Jim.

35
36 We'll move on to our agenda.

37
38 Reports.

39
40 Council members.

41
42 Anybody want to volunteer to start.

43
44 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

47
48 MR. G. BROWER: Gordon Brower from
49 Barrow. And my primary area to hunt out of Barrow is
50 in Ikpikpuk. It's about 70 miles southeast of Barrow.

1 And been hunting there all my life. My folks hunted
2 there. Even there's old sod houses there, belonged to
3 our grandparents. It's a good place to hunt. Always
4 been plenty all the time.

5
6 And I think I repeated some of these
7 concerns a couple years ago when the USGS and other
8 scientists started to put connexes and then put interns
9 or a bunch of scientists on little bright tents in
10 circles around the connexes. And we started having many
11 concerns from lower hunters that they had put this
12 stuff in an area where caribou movement was very high.
13 And then it started to impact me, because that's 20
14 miles downwards, and then for the next four years the
15 caribou didn't come. And I'd been hunting this area
16 since I was a little guy, you know. Every year you
17 would have thousands coming through, big movement. And
18 then all of a sudden they're not coming through. And
19 those were some of the observations and concerns. To
20 this day it's been very difficult in that. You can go
21 upriver another 20, 25 miles, because they go to the
22 same place, but they make a new route. And I'm pretty
23 close to finding the new route I think. But that's
24 what made it difficult.

25
26 Also some of the other things that we
27 do out there is fish a lot, and I think the fishing was
28 -- I think the fishing went very good. There was a
29 bunch of hunters that were upriver and I had mentioned
30 to them, got to be careful when you're going upriver,
31 because it's going to freeze on you, and I don't want
32 you guys to bust up the ice coming downriver, because
33 I'll have nets under the ice, and try to sort them. I
34 don't know, some of them just say, oh, it's global
35 warming. I hasn't freezed good in a long time. But it
36 froze good all right on September 18. By September 20
37 I had nets under the ice. And then them boats got
38 stuck upriver.

39
40 Anyway, I think that was just -- it's
41 good to talk about these things. I did pay a lot of
42 attention to my catch on the fish. Our neighboring
43 community in Nuiqsut has a large concern about fish
44 mold. Ichthyophonous or something like that. Some fish
45 mold. So I was paying good attention to our catch to
46 make sure that if we're starting to see anything
47 different that we report it right away, and it was --
48 all of our (In Inupiaq) was real good. Good fishing.

49
50 And I did get a few caribou, but not in

1 the amount I'm used to getting. I can see the changes.

2

3 I think that's -- that would be my
4 report.

5

6 Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon,
9 for sharing that. Questions to Gordon in regards to
10 his report from Council or Staff. Anybody from BLM.

11

12 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: I heard they were going
17 to move them connexes and quit doing that, and maybe
18 consult with hunters first, but I don't think they've
19 moved that stuff yet. It's been like five years now.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah, that's what
22 I was trying to see if maybe Dr. Yokel was still on.
23 I'm not sure if he is.

24

25 DR. YOKEL: I'm sorry, Harry, I didn't
26 hear you when you said my name earlier if you did.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was just calling
29 out the agency, not specifically Dr. Yokel, but at this
30 round I did to get your attention.

31

32 DR. YOKEL: Well, I'm here.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you,
35 Dave. And you heard what the concern was, and then
36 we've had previous discussions on the subject, and
37 maybe if you've had an update on what's occurred, it
38 might be helpful.

39

40 DR. YOKEL: I haven't heard anything on
41 those connexes in a while. I know they did plan to
42 move them. I know they had trouble finding a
43 contractor to do it a couple years ago. I'm not sure
44 if they're still out there or not. If Gordon says they
45 are, then I guess they are. I can look into it and get
46 back to you.

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, that would be
49 greatly appreciated. I think it's a concern we've been
50 voicing for quite some time and we need some kind of

1 resolution to the matter.

2

3 DR. YOKEL: Okay.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Dave.

6

7 Steve.

8

9 MR. OOMITUK: I have a comment. You
10 know, I, too, have been born and raised on the North
11 Slope. I lived in Barrow for nine years in the early
12 70s, and Point Hope the rest of my life. And I was
13 born and raised in Point Hope, and moved back in '81.

14

15 You know, we were always taught to
16 respect our land, our ocean and our animals, and, you
17 know, we were always taught to let the first -- our
18 first animals that we catch, we always gave them away.
19 As little boys, you know, you catch your first fish,
20 your first duck, your first caribou, you always give it
21 away to someone in need. Elderly. Your first seal.
22 You know, when you're a whaling captain, when you catch
23 your first whale, it's taken away. You give it to the
24 next. You know, the captain just gets the -- we call
25 it the lip part, you know. You know, how we were
26 taught. We've been connected with the animals for
27 thousands of years, you know. They've been our food,
28 our shelter, our clothing.

29

30 You know, at Point Hope, we're mainly
31 ocean hunters, but we do go on land. We do rely on
32 caribou. We didn't have to go very far in the past,
33 you know. This year the caribou came very close, 10
34 miles out of town. They didn't have to go 60, 50 miles
35 away. Some of the young hunters, the boys, 9, 10, 11,
36 12 years old, caught their first caribou. It was good
37 to see the caribou come that close again.

38

39 You know, I know I'm new to this board.
40 I just got appointed in December. I'm looking forward
41 to working with this group.

42

43 And, you know, we've always lived the
44 cycle of life that has been passed down to us from
45 generation-to-generation. The cycle of life that we
46 live with the animals. And we're seeing that change.
47 We know when certain animals are coming, you know, and
48 we know when they'll be there. We've lived it. Our
49 parents. Our grandparents. They pass it on from
50 generation-to-generation. And now we're seeing those

1 changes happening.

2

3 You know, we're concerned about our
4 ocean, our way of life, you know, the whales, the fish,
5 the seals. And especially with the traffic coming
6 through with the opening of the Northwest Passage.
7 More activity. More cruise ships. You know,
8 especially after hearing the story on the Panhandle and
9 the cruise ships that were there and the dumping of the
10 sewage into the water and certain fish areas are not
11 there.

12

13 Our ocean in the Arctic is very, you
14 know, fragile. The smallest of all things, the
15 plankton, you know, that's what the whales rely on, you
16 know. They have a cycle of life, too. They have a
17 food chain. And, you know, the animals have taken care
18 of us for thousands of years. You know, it's our turn
19 to take care of them, because without them, we wouldn't
20 be here. They're our identity as a people.

21

22 So I'm looking forward to working with
23 this group.

24

25 Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
28 sharing that, your comments, Steve.

29

30 Anyone else. Questions or comments to
31 Steve before we start next.

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

36

37 MR. G. BROWER: I don't have any
38 questions or comments, but, you know, when we're under
39 member's reports, it's always good to hear our
40 neighboring communities, their hunting pressure. This
41 time around I think we heard from -- I'm hearing from
42 Northwest Arctic and their concerns. The same concerns
43 we have with the population decline in caribou, the
44 trends, and the continuing trend that's going down.
45 And my concern would be the pressure in -- hunting
46 pressure moving north with the proposal, should it
47 pass. They're the one and the same Western Arctic
48 Herd, Teshekpuk Herd. They go to the North Slope and
49 they go that way. They're the same ones. And the
50 presentations, we're hearing about super-hunters,

1 super-households, just the surveys and things like
2 that, and the amount necessary for sustaining
3 subsistence.

4
5 I think it's upon us, too, to look at
6 the closure to non-rural hunters. I think that's the
7 term, right? Non-rural would be Anchorage, Fairbanks,
8 anybody that's not rural, not living and residing in
9 those communities, those little towns. It might be
10 time for us to be thinking alike at that time. I just
11 wanted to add that.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
16 sharing that, Gordon.

17
18 Any others.

19
20 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee.

23
24 MR. KAYOTUK: Lee Kayotuk for the
25 record. I've just got a report, not so extensively
26 long, but we did harvest three bowheads this winter,
27 and was successful in fishing. And the Arctic char
28 was pretty good during the summer. And we did harvest
29 a beluga whale. Waterfowl was pretty good during
30 geese-hunting time, but the brants came late -- or are
31 coming in during the regular time, but we can't stay
32 for the brants, because due to climate change and all
33 the thawing of the rivers that we cannot wait for the
34 brants any more, because we have to get back to the
35 village, because of the thawing of the rivers comes too
36 fast these days.

37
38 Throughout the winter we got a few
39 polar bears coming around still today, and we at least
40 had at least 50 to 55 polar bears last fall. And we
41 got a lot of tourism on a regular basis between August
42 and October during freeze-up time when the bears are
43 slowly going away when it freezes up.

44
45 Again climate change is a big factor.
46 We used to go to places where we used to hunt and go to
47 all the time, but all the channels are all closed off
48 due to the high storms we have now in falltime, and it
49 closes off all the channels that we used to have to --
50 used to go to which was really good camping areas that

1 we can't get into any more. And that's all closed off
2 due to high storms.

3

4 Caribou was not so great this summer.
5 We get a few caribou, but, you know, the caribou that
6 we get from Porcupine Caribou, they don't stick around
7 any more, you know. It just comes and goes and we're
8 lucky to get two or three caribou. Not a whole lot of
9 families got caribou, because, you know, they don't
10 hang around any more like they used to.

11

12 It's a quite stormy winter, and these
13 days now it's -- you know, we could have a week-long
14 storm without any traffic or airplanes coming into the
15 village to bring supplies. And people that need to get
16 out, you know, have to wait, and just due to weather,
17 and it makes it a long waiting game just for like
18 people trying to get out for medical and things like
19 that.

20

21 I think that's all I have for now.

22

23 But anyway, thank you, Mr. Chair and
24 Council.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
27 sharing that, Lee.

28

29 Just on my part, you know, how's the
30 interaction with our Federal agencies regarding the
31 moose, did that end up being a closure without any take
32 of moose.

33

34 MR. KAYOTUK: Mr. Chair. Yeah, at this
35 time moose season is closed in our area due to low
36 count. There probably, I want to say two moose last
37 spring was spotted, but we do have a few caribou that's
38 hanging around. Well, it's actually reindeer. We've
39 got about like 40 reindeer west of Kaktovik, I want to
40 way about 20 to 30 miles, that was being hunted during
41 this winter, and there's at least maybe 20, 25, 30
42 reindeer now that are being wintered in the area that
43 at least we could provide for the village in order for
44 their needs. You know, we can't just go to the store
45 and buy meat, because it's too expensive. At least we
46 got a few caribou to provide for the village.

47

48 Thank you.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for

1 that, Lee.

2

3 Council members, questions for Lee.

4

5 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Steve.

8

9 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. I just wanted to
10 add, you know, last year spring time we caught only
11 three whales. The ice was so thin, it opened up about
12 a mile out. Usually we're out 14 miles in April, and
13 five miles by the point. The last two years the leads
14 been open almost year around, just, you know, 100 yards
15 to a mile out. We caught our three whales the first of
16 April, and then the lead closed, but it was real thin
17 ice, and we weren't able to make it back out there, but
18 the whales were going out. And some of the young guys
19 tried to go out there, but the ice broke off on them.
20 They barely made it back. They actually were water
21 skipping back, you know, because it seemed like more
22 and more the younger kids, you know, they're water
23 skipping in the lagoon in the summertime, so they know
24 they can water skip in the ocean. That was the first
25 time we saw snowmachines water skipping back to the
26 main ice from where they were at. But the ice was too
27 thin.

28

29 The lead is open right now in Point
30 Hope. They're seeing whales, and it's only 100 yards
31 out. And they're going whaling, and it's March. We've
32 actually seen whales in February. But then it rained
33 in February, it rained in January. We're seeing a lot
34 more snow. But we had open water all winter.

35

36 We've always know climate. You know,
37 the weather's been changing. You know, we celebrate
38 the borning of the ice, when it (In Inupiaq). We
39 celebrate the ice when it's first formed on the beach
40 with the whale's tail. We put the whale's tail covered
41 with whale blubber in an ice cellar, and it stays
42 through the spring, through the summer, through the
43 fall until, you know, when it (In Inupiaq). When the
44 ice is born, we pull it out. You know, it used to be
45 in late September, October. Not know. You know, it's
46 even getting later. We had to wait until November to
47 have the celebration of the born of the ice with the
48 whale's tail.

49

50 You know, we do a lot of ceremonies

1 that deal with the animals. You know, the weather has
2 really changed quite a bit up in our area. The
3 currents, warmer currents. Different species of birds.
4 Abundance of fish. Different types of fish. You know,
5 we fished -- we used to fish for char all the time,
6 and, you know, we're getting more salmon.

7

8 But that's all I have to say.

9

10 Thank you.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm trying to take
13 notes while you're giving your reports, so if I'm slow
14 in responding, I apologize for that.

15

16 Thank you for sharing that, Steve. I
17 think these are things that we continue to talk about,
18 and the shift of resources that occur with these
19 changes that we're observing. It's very important.
20 And sharing some of your traditional practices from
21 Point Hope, and how that's changing along with these
22 shifts of patterns for freezing, the newborn and the
23 young ice, that supports the -- much earlier in your
24 younger days I could say, but now it's much later
25 today, because of the changing climates. So these are
26 things that we continue to share. And it's good we
27 do those, and it reflects the conditions that we're
28 dealing with.

29

30 You know, the use of snowmachines and
31 water skipping to get back on shore from the ice, it's
32 a very dangerous things, and, you know, there needs to
33 means of how to prevent that from happening, or prepare
34 for that one day a situation arises where an incident
35 occurs where a snowmachine tips over and there's no
36 means of getting out there. There needs to be some
37 thought to that in terms of how rescue efforts need to
38 prepare themselves in that type of situation, because
39 it's only increasing within our communities as well.
40 You know, these are subsistence activities that drive
41 us to these extreme conditions in terms of our
42 subsistence, trying to conduct our way of life, taking
43 recourse in the condition that is very unforgiving in
44 the Arctic. The Arctic Ocean is very unforgiving. It
45 does not take or give any thoughts to a human being's
46 challenges. It makes it more extreme in a sense. And
47 we have to take other measures to be able to subsist,
48 and trying to prepare for that.

49

50 These types of changes are occurring

1 right in our eyes, right in our presence. And I see
2 that happening up on the North Slope, too. I'm up
3 Barrow, you know, and these younger people taking
4 chances with their lives, and the ramification of that
5 is we see an incident occurring where the person gets
6 lost and ends up getting frostbites where they end up
7 losing their feet. You know, we've had a couple
8 instances of that for the past couple years. And
9 that's something that we didn't normally have to think
10 about, because we prepared our children, or the younger
11 hunters to be cautious, not to take risks. You can
12 come back and hunt at a different time. These kind of
13 explanations were given to us, and it seem to be today
14 that they're not thinking about these types of
15 activity. They're more rushed to get to the resource
16 and take them, because they're available now, and
17 taking a risk of being out in the conditions that
18 they're in.

19
20 It's global climate change effects to
21 all seasons of our activities. It's just not one given
22 season. It's all year round that we're dealing with
23 these kind of changes. Gordon's observations. Steve's
24 observations. James. You know, the observations in
25 Anaktuvuk, too. Nuiqsut. Barrow. We're experiencing
26 all these changes, and yet we're not really prepared
27 for the preparedness for the risk that we've been
28 subjected to.

29
30 So, anyway, I just wanted to share that
31 a little bit in terms of how these types of
32 communications is only on the increase, and to be able
33 to subsist under written regulations and what have you,
34 and the comments by Mr. Magdanz, how do we prepare our
35 hunters for being less restrictive in the sense when
36 resources become less available. I think these are
37 very important things to think about, that, you know,
38 to be adaptive and resilient, there needs to be less
39 restrictiveness to the availability of the resources
40 that we depend on for subsistence. And that's what it
41 is. If you'd just think back before the Federal
42 government came to introduce its regulations on harvest
43 and the use of resources within our State, we were
44 adapting the climates, conditions that we were enduring
45 at that time. We were very resilient to the conditions
46 that were before us, because we were able -- we were
47 not regulated, and we took resources that were given to
48 us by the creator. We were not specified to one
49 resource, there's multiple resources that moved in and
50 out with the conditions and seasons, and whatever we

1 took, we used for food, but now we're so prescribed to
2 the types of resources that we can use for subsistence,
3 it's taken away that adaptability and resilience that
4 we continue to try and identify with today.

5
6 You know, while I'm talking, I'll just
7 give a little report of my observations over the last
8 fall. It was quite interesting to me, because I was
9 able to go up to my cabin for the first time in like
10 seven years, because of the conditions that were before
11 us. And the opportunity seemed to just click in,
12 because me and my son and my nephews took a boat and
13 went up inland during the falltime. We were able to
14 take four caribou. You know, it wasn't easy, we had to
15 pack them three miles and those four caribou, it took
16 us all day packing them back and forth to the boat, and
17 then going back up 12 miles to our cabin, which 130
18 miles out of Barrow, south. And then having to do that
19 kind of hunting, you know, it's very different. And
20 having to pack caribou for a few miles is a big change
21 for myself and my nephews and my son. And I just
22 explained to them, just think what your grandparents
23 were doing. You're doing exactly what they were doing,
24 you're packing caribou back for a long distance,
25 because they were not so readily available when they
26 were pursuing them. They had to go greater distances.

27
28 And I was showing them the remnants of
29 old sod houses, like Gordon was saying, in the area
30 where our cabin is. This is where these families used
31 to live. There was five or six families that had sod
32 houses all around here, and they'd stay here all winter
33 waiting for the resources and opportunity to take the
34 resources. Fishing while they were waiting. Gathering
35 a large number of fish to transport back to Barrow so
36 they could barter and share with their extended family
37 in Barrow. And we got to having these kind of
38 discussions, it was very meaningful. They learned a
39 lot.

40
41 And it was a time, a very short time we
42 spent there. I was hoping to spend a large amount of
43 time, but it was only one week. I was hoping to be out
44 there for three weeks, but one of my boys got sick and
45 had to be brought back home. Anyway on our way down we
46 got to meet Gordon's boys who were already waiting for
47 Gordon. They said, you're waiting for Gordon to come
48 around. We'll be Gordon. We'll pretend to be Gordon
49 around here, and his son got real excited. Anyway, we
50 missed each other, and anyway we kept heading north.

1 And he's right. On our way down, we
2 started down and it started freezing up. Colder
3 temperatures. The ice was forming. Pancake ice was
4 forming in the river. And there's another family
5 trying to head up the opposite direction we were going,
6 and I was telling to them, you're going to get frozen
7 in if you don't start heading downriver. It's too late
8 to be heading unless you're thinking of spending the
9 fall and winter season up here, because I seen the
10 children, they weren't prepared to be out. They were
11 in their summer clothing. They were cold in the boat.
12 So we had to set up our tent for them to warm up.

13
14 So those kind of things that we're
15 seeing. You know, preparedness is -- and taking risk,
16 it's on the increase, and I think that we have to
17 communicate more efficiently in terms of preparedness.
18 I think I hear that a little bit more after a couple of
19 incidents from within our community, those young men
20 losing limbs because of frostbite, being ill-prepared
21 to be out in the elements during the winter season. So
22 these things are very real.

23
24 And in terms of how we work with the
25 regulations that we're trying to deal with, you know,
26 it seems to be -- we're needing to understand how this
27 shift of resources and to manage them. I don't think
28 it's -- as I stated, I don't think we can manage those
29 resources. It's we need to manage the people that
30 utilize these resources, and the competition that's
31 increasing, because of the shortage in other areas, the
32 influx of people are increasing into our areas and
33 creating a lot more competition for a smaller group of
34 animals. And that's only on the increase all around
35 the whole state. So I think we need to sit down and
36 really look at how we could justify and utilize our
37 Federal regulations that provide for us and generate
38 the justification to manage the people that utilize it,
39 or have a significant need for these resources.

40
41 I think I'll stop here to -- I could
42 probably go on for another 10 minutes, but I'll stop
43 here to move along with our other agenda items, unless
44 anybody has any questions. Comments. Ernest, I see
45 your hand, holding both hands.

46
47 Yes, Raymond, come on up to the mic.
48 We won't hold back participating. You're welcome to
49 comment. This is a public meeting.
50

1 MR. STONEY: Good afternoon. I'm
2 Raymond Stoney. I'm from Kiana, with the RAC.

3
4 One thing, Mr. Chairman, I'm so
5 concerned about, about the declining of this herd in
6 the last 10 years now, and that we've come to the point
7 where we're going to have to close -- make a closure in
8 a very short time. So my point is about this closure
9 of this herd is something that we thought that for a
10 long, long time, about the non-resident hunters.
11 Regardless of what we do, regardless of what we say,
12 they will still hunt. They'll still be around.
13 There's a lot of people with aircraft that they're
14 doing the same thing they did yesterday. So, Mr.
15 Chairman, my point is, with a situation like that, we
16 should contact all the agencies throughout the state
17 and get more stricter with the regulations of hauling
18 these people to Northwest Alaska. That's one thing we
19 all ought of concern.

20
21 And No. 2, this is a very important
22 issue, what we thought about from the herd, from
23 490,000, we are told by the agencies that this herd has
24 dropped down more than half. We've got 277,000
25 missing. Today the count they gave us a year ago is
26 235,000. So my question is, Mr. Chairman, for all the
27 agencies, what's happened with this herd? What's
28 happened with that? Did you see them? 270,000
29 caribou, did you see them doing something, doing
30 somewhere, or dying? They do not know. Somebody would
31 have seen them. 277,000.

32
33 So with that, Mr. Chairman, my point is
34 now after we get all the census and count from this
35 herd, that we should contact all the agencies and put a
36 lot of money in the situation and make a survey and
37 find out what's wrong with this herd. That's a lot of
38 caribou. I know if they were dead out in the field,
39 someone would see them. Somebody would. But they say
40 there's that much missing, 277,000. So that's a
41 situation where the North Arctic's concerned about it,
42 and I suppose also North Slope. Because we have to
43 know what happened to this herd.

44
45 That's all I've got for now.

46
47 Mr. Chairman.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
50 sharing that, Mr. Stoney. And it's very important that

1 you bring this up, because these are some of the
2 similar questions we've asked on other resources as
3 well, not just caribou. But again that's a very good
4 question to ask, you know, have they counted that
5 amount of caribou in a die-off some place we don't know
6 about? I don't know. Maybe there is, leave the
7 smaller fracture of that, and it could attribute to
8 another location where there could have been another
9 die off, but that remains to be seen. And we'll leave
10 it to the researchers to generate their answers.

11

12 MR. COMMACK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Louie.

15

16 MR. COMMACK: I'm Louie Commack with
17 Upper Kobuk Fish & Game Advisory Committee.

18

19 Raymond and I are entering our 33rd
20 year this year on the advisory committee, so we've been
21 around a few times, having battles with the different
22 agencies, the State government, the Federal government,
23 Fish and Game, whoever. When we don't agree with a lot
24 of the proposals or rules and regulations, we're
25 allowed to fighting back, because of our inherent
26 right.

27

28 Last year the Upper Kobuk and the Lower
29 Kobuk held our yearly meeting in Ambler. There it was
30 decided that after hearing so much data and reduction
31 and declining the caribou population, we took it upon
32 ourselves that we would the Federal and State
33 regulation of 15 a day. And we're well aware of 15 a
34 day, that was by the State and the Feds. We discussed
35 it, talked about it, motions were made that we would
36 ask the Federal Government, the State government, we
37 would cut it down to five or whatever Enoch and his
38 crew would come out with. We pushed it up to his
39 level. And I'm grateful they came in with what, six,
40 seven, five? Seven. Seven per day. We were willing
41 to sacrifice, because of our people depend on that
42 meat, you know. It was the people that set it. We'll
43 make up hunting regulations if we have to. If we have
44 to cut down again, so be it, because of the future
45 generations that come after us.

46

47 Steve brought up something, I think it
48 was today, on the traditional hunting grounds. And my
49 question to him is, you live in the oldest village in
50 the north, Point Hope. And I'm sure your forefathers

1 had a traditional hunting ground, but you have
2 traditional hunting waters. I'm just curious how many
3 miles out in the ocean do you use for the last thousand
4 years, just for your inherent right. So is Barrow.
5 You've used that waters for thousands of years. That's
6 an inherent right, to protect it. So you made a good
7 point, Steve.

8
9 We'll be taking on the new proposal
10 from our region. Unit 23 is asking closure on non-
11 Federal-qualified subsistence hunters. I think it will
12 be tomorrow the who thing starts. And we only could
13 ask that you, since we're neighbors and we share a lot
14 of food among ourselves, that you consider helping us.

15
16 I sit in the Gates of the Arctic, and
17 I've been pushing for two things that I think our
18 people need to understand and study. ANILCA, Title
19 VIII, protects us on the hunting and fishing rights.
20 Indian law. Federal Indian law also protects us.
21 These are what will be helping us as we move on down
22 the road with our hunting pressure that's upon us now.
23 There is so much hunting pressure.

24
25 I just want to briefly speak to you
26 about the Amble mining district road, the proposal. A
27 permit process have started. AIEDA and Army Corps of
28 Engineers had applied for the road permit, but we threw
29 it back at them, said it was not complete. So we
30 haven't received anything again. Everything have to go
31 through a regulatory process, the EIS, the scoping,
32 subsistence harvest data, all this stuff, it has to
33 come to our attention before we could even start
34 commenting on these issues. So I thought I'd give you
35 a brief update.

36
37 But when we take a look at it, there's
38 already problems with our caribou. The Red Dog Road.
39 If we should build -- if there should be a road built
40 from Fairbanks to Ambler mining district, I think we're
41 going to run into a lot of problems within our game
42 unit. The decline of moose, bear, the off-roads to the
43 Kobuk River, Upper Kobuk River. There's so much that
44 will happen. There will be -- since it's mainly on
45 State land -- I just know there's a lot of mining
46 permits out there, and mining land on the proposed
47 road, and these people have every right, if one dollar
48 is spent from the Federal money or State money, it's
49 public money. So already we could see that when people
50 tell us it will be closed to the public, they're lying.

1 If you spend one Federal dollar or one State dollar,
2 everybody in this state has a right to use that road,
3 so don't believe a lot of this stuff that's coming out.

4
5 There's many other issues I want to
6 bring up, but due to time, I just want to share with
7 you and again that we are really concerned about the
8 decline of the caribou, and like Mr. Stoney have
9 indicated, that we want the caribou to stick around a
10 little longer. I think it's upon us that we make hard
11 choices. And I know we will.

12
13 Thank you.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other Council
16 member reports.

17
18 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. This is
19 Rosemary.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Rosemary.

22
23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I want to thank you
24 guys for coming up and sharing. It's important to
25 interact with some of these discussions that are
26 crossing over in the lines on the map, that share
27 concerns about our ability to harvest in our
28 communities.

29
30 From Barrow, the atmosphere for hunting
31 this summer and fall was much better. When people knew
32 there were animals on the west side of Barrow, and they
33 could try to go hunt, you could tell amongst the young
34 hunter that atmosphere was so much better. The outlook
35 of having the hope to be able to go out and see animals
36 and have and have a chance to try to harvest it was a
37 big difference in the story telling throughout the
38 summer and the fall this year. I think that's really
39 contributory to last year when we had really hard
40 distances to try to travel from the Barrow area to try
41 to harvest caribou, traveling into Atqasuk and into
42 Wainwright. The atmosphere for the young hunters and
43 communicating about that was much different.

44
45 This contributes a lot to other issues
46 that are not just Federal subsistence when we're
47 talking about wellness of our people. The Arctic
48 Council right now is working on suicide prevention.
49 These kind of issues are really important to bring into
50 the other layers of discussions that are affecting our

1 communities and the research that's being done.

2

3 Having the fishing this summer in
4 Barrow, the ice fishing with differences to the ice
5 not being there was a big difference. A lot of the
6 young people talking about going out when they were
7 younger and having the ice bergs to fish off of versus
8 having the ice go out and not being able to do that
9 shore fast fishing is a big difference. The hunters as
10 they got to travel into -- when it snowed and froze
11 over, having it occur on a more normal basis this year
12 was also a big contributory factor in successful
13 harvesting.

14

15 But it doesn't show the variables of
16 the increased effort that our people are doing to
17 maintain the harvest loads, and that's a very important
18 discussion that isn't incorporated in the research
19 that's been presented. Our people are working extra
20 hard, putting in more hours, traveling greater
21 distances to try to continue the harvest loads that we
22 need to feed our families, and contributing that to the
23 research that's being done is not well-showed in the
24 presentations that we've gotten.

25

26 The furbearing out of Barrow, this also
27 has been -- I've had a number of people that have
28 talked to me that they've had successful harvesting.
29 Around Nuiqsut, tremendous amount of wolves that have
30 been caught this year was shared. But also that their
31 efforts to go out and do the caribou hunting ad share
32 with the other village was another big part of
33 discussions that happened in Barrow and in Wainwright
34 and in Nuiqsut and in Anaktuvuk Pass. The extensive
35 effort to work together to gather the resources to make
36 sure the village was able to share in the harvest that
37 was done throughout the region was really instrumental
38 this year in building the relationship as well as
39 maintaining those important highs and facilitating the
40 communication over some of these discussions.

41

42 One of the things that we haven't
43 brought out in our discussion has been the
44 understanding of the hunting regulations that occurred
45 on the State side with the hunting on the east side of
46 the Dalton Highway. The effort from the Fairbanks area
47 to increase the time when cows could be harvested is a
48 big concern, and it may be contributing greatly to the
49 concern around Anaktuvuk Pass. and that was not
50 brought out in some of this discussion, but we need to

1 look at some of the variables that was brought out with
2 the previous presenter in looking at how some of these
3 regulatory changes can be affected in understanding
4 which regulations are making which impacts, because the
5 Fairbanks area has a very different hunting process,
6 but it's bringing hunters into our region that is
7 harvesting our catch, but it's affecting our region's
8 ability to feed our families. And understanding where
9 some of these pressures are coming from, because we've
10 worked really hard in our process, but our process does
11 not meet all the needs where impacts are impacting our
12 ability to harvest. The discussion with the Board of
13 Game is at a different meeting process. Not all of us
14 get to go to that process. But understanding the
15 research that's coming out around those regulatory
16 changes is very important for us, especially as we're
17 dealing with more increased concentration on this. So
18 I wanted to bring those important factors out.

19

20 And I also support the discussion
21 around the concerns that are coming with increased
22 changes to our lands and waters or lands and waters
23 adjacent to our regulatory enforcement areas, because
24 our animals migrate through many of the borders on
25 these maps, but whether or not they get to us in a safe
26 means. If we're going to have increased activity
27 around the road to Ambler with mining activities.
28 Whether our birds stage in there in the spring, if they
29 have mining activities, we need to know whether or not
30 our birds are still healthy with the changes to the
31 lands from those mining efforts that could impact the
32 health of our animals, but the health of our people,
33 and as well as the other migratory issues that come
34 with those discussions.

35

36 So thank you.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
39 Rosemary, for providing that type of information and
40 your comments as well. I think these are very
41 meaningful comments to be shared with others.

42

43 I'd like to ask the Council if there's
44 any questions to any of the Council members, or
45 others, agency reps.

46

47 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

50

1 MR. G. BROWER: There was a couple
2 questions from Raymond Stoney about what happened to
3 caribou. You know, (In Inupiaq). We're always doing
4 things, either traplining or -- and I think, Harry,
5 you're aware, I don't know what year it was, maybe
6 2002, 2003, somewhere (In Inupiaq). It was a tough,
7 cold, maybe (In Inupiaq). I think they starved. I
8 don't know. (In Inupiaq) And I asked the old man about
9 it, too, and he said during that time there were two
10 simultaneous seismic operations going on. And the hum
11 of the generator always, with two big seismic camps
12 going on. He thought, because he was reindeer herding
13 in 1930s until World War Two, and he thought them
14 caribou could not hear their regular environment and
15 could not hear the wolves, and could not hear these
16 things. He thought maybe they couldn't sleep and they
17 couldn't rest with all of this seismic camp, with 140-
18 man camp here, another one 20 miles away, another 140-
19 man camp. But we all know there's a variability in
20 trying to determine what's going on, because it was a
21 hard year, too, with the temperatures being funny.

22
23 Another one, and I think the wildlife
24 biologists captured -- because they got radio collar,
25 Western Arctic Herd come around from Point Hope, try to
26 go by Red Dog road from the Red Dog mine. (In Inupiaq)
27 And they got about maybe 100 of them collared. And one
28 collar means about 20,000 animals. And the biologist
29 show the radio collar almost making it, and they
30 return, then they come back to the road, then they go
31 all the way around back to the north side of the Brooks
32 Range and it turned winter on them. And either one or
33 two of the collars quit moving. They go look at it,
34 they find the collar, two dead ones. But if you
35 extrapolate that, one collar means about 20,000
36 animals. Now, when that one collar died, did it
37 represent 20,000 animals? I mean, those are the things
38 that you think about.

39
40 But those are -- you know, they're
41 hard. And I hear that from the biologists themselves.
42 And they have that information. They don't like to
43 show the animation about the impact from a road.

44
45 That's all I wanted to.....

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
48 sharing that, Gordon. You're right. We've had some
49 climate change impacts affecting our resources, not
50 just caribou. Sheep, moose as well.

1 I had my experiences growing up north
2 as you recall, Gordon, looking at these large die offs
3 in our hunting areas in the middle of winter. We had
4 extremely warm conditions early in the winter season,
5 and then a rain event in January. Then come February
6 we had extreme cold temperatures, which froze up the
7 wet snow, making it very hard for the caribou to access
8 the food resources that they depend on. And it created
9 a large die off, because of starvation of large numbers
10 of caribou. Those years you identified, 2000, 2002,
11 2003, within those three years there was couple of
12 large die offs that were noted up on the North Slope.
13 And there's some documentation, too, to those facts by
14 the area biologist at the time, Geoff Carroll, when he
15 was our area biologist for the State.

16
17 And some information with our North
18 Slope Department of Wildlife Management, heard all the
19 concerns, because we have a North Slope Fish and Game
20 Management Committee. That's the name of the committee
21 that's part of the Department of Wildlife Management.
22 And they've heard the concerns, and then they have
23 representatives from each of our North Slopes villages
24 that makes up that North Slope Borough, Department of
25 Wildlife Management. Fish and Game Management
26 Committee. And they did speak about these observations
27 that were passed down to them from their constituents
28 within each of their villages. And they did identify
29 with large die offs.

30
31 Samples were collected from the animals
32 that had not been scavenged too much. And some
33 necropsies were done to some of those animals, and
34 starvation was identified as the cause. And their
35 stomach contents that they found in some of the caribou
36 had small rocks in their stomach, because what they're
37 trying to find for food was not so readily available,
38 because of the conditions that were real extreme.

39
40 So these are some of the things I could
41 recall from the comments Gordon just identified with
42 him trying to share some information regarding where
43 all the animals are. So these are the things that have
44 been identified in, like I said, and Gordon was
45 identifying, 2000, 2002, 2003, somewhere in that time
46 frame there was these die offs up north, because of the
47 different conditions. So these are events that have
48 occurred on the North Slope. And there's some
49 documentation as I stated to those facts.

50

1 Any other questions. Comments

2

3 (No comments)

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, we could
6 take a five-minute break or recess if you all are ready
7 for -- or, Ernest come on up to the mic.

8

9 MR. E. NAGEAK: Ernest Nageak from
10 Barrow, born and raised. Subsistence user, and
11 employee with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
12 Barrow field office.

13

14 We've been going to the schools,
15 starting our recruiting for our summer hire program.
16 For eider journey we hire about 10 to 14 students.

17

18 And before the birds come, we have our
19 annual migratory bird open house where we welcome the
20 birds and animals in, and law enforcement shows up to
21 provide outreach and answer questions. We have people
22 from Marine Mammal Management.

23

24 But something new that I learned about
25 yesterday, the first three days, was getting talking
26 points about polar bear issues. They're actually going
27 out to all the coastal villages from St. Lawrence
28 Island to Barrow, and they happen to be in Wainwright
29 this weeks. They may be having a community meeting
30 talking about the proposal to start regulating a quota
31 this coming January. You know, it's all fairly new to
32 us, and it's, you know, going to be coming quick. And
33 they're still answering questions of, you know, the old
34 data. And I just wanted to let the coastal villages,
35 Point Hope, you know, Barrow, Wainwright, that the
36 Federal government is coming around and talking about
37 the actions to start a quota of 29 polar bears that's
38 able to be harvested all the way from St. Lawrence
39 Island. And come to find out, you know, they're going
40 to include Barrow and Wainwright, because originally we
41 would always hear the cut-off would be like Icy cape,
42 but on the treaty it has Barrow involved. So I just
43 wanted to let the Board know that that's the issues
44 with polar bear and the upcoming quota they're trying
45 to impose this year.

46

47 Thank you.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
50 sharing that, Ernest. I think this is something that

1 we're going to have to be dealing with regarding polar
2 bears, and continue that communication about educating
3 and the quota that's being imposed. And there's also
4 going to be enforcement right behind that in regard to
5 illegal takes in the event there's a closure of the
6 polar bear hunt. There's going to be law enforcement
7 coming right behind the closure date to follow through
8 with the regulations and implementing those regulations
9 on hunters that are not even aware of this quota that's
10 being implemented by the United States Fish and
11 Wildlife Service, Marine Mammal Division on polar bear.

12

13 And thank you for sharing that again,
14 Ernest.

15

16 Thank you very much.

17

18 Bob.

19

20 MR. SHEARS: Thank you. Been having a
21 struggle within myself whether I wanted to voice this,
22 make my comments on this point of topic public. My
23 name's Bob Shears, representing in my viewpoints here
24 on my report is on the subsistence activities of
25 Wainwright, although I haven't conducted subsistence
26 activities there myself in this last year, I will
27 network there, and have extended family through my son
28 there.

29

30 So when we had our last meeting back in
31 November in Anaktuvuk Pass, Wainwright was undergoing
32 its own caribou emergency similar to Anaktuvuk, because
33 the herd had not migrated in typical fashion and
34 seasonal fashion, had not at that point reached
35 Wainwright. And this is a result of climate change.
36 Typically in Wainwright.....

37

38 Wainwright, first of all, for those of
39 you in the audience in relation to its geography, sits
40 on the coast at the head of a long lagoon. It's about
41 five miles wide and about 30 miles long, running from
42 the north at Wainwright south to the river system where
43 it chokes down into a river. And so the lagoon is a
44 natural obstacle for the caribou migrating coastwise
45 north to south, south to north, and the caribou have to
46 migrate around the lagoon during the wet season, or the
47 thin ice season, in order to cross the river.

48

49 And at this point, about 38 miles south
50 of Wainwright, a rural community called Anaktuluk (ph),

1 it's been there for centuries and centuries. It's
2 sitting on a heavy migration route. It's where the
3 people of that area have traditionally subsisted for
4 caribou.

5
6 Twenty years ago the lagoon would begin
7 to freeze in early September. And it would be
8 traversable by snowmachine or dogsled by early October.
9 It takes about three weeks for the ice to get from one
10 to three inches thick where you can move on it. The
11 caribou typically, the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
12 migrate through there beginning in late October through
13 September. That is the period when the people of
14 Wainwright typically take about 75 percent of their
15 animals. Bulls. Mostly bulls, because it's pre-rut.

16
17 After the freeze-up of the lagoon, the
18 caribou won't move on the bare ice of the lagoon. It
19 typically needs a snow cover on it before they'll start
20 going across the ice. So they're still migrating up
21 around on the river system. At that point the
22 community is kind of cut off from the caribou, and so
23 there's a lag period there where the bulls are rutting,
24 they're doing their breeding uninterrupted by hunting
25 activity. And then in November the hunting picks up
26 again using snowmachines, dogsleds, taking cows, fat
27 females. That rounds out the rest of the diet, caribou
28 harvest for the community for the year.

29
30 This year the lagoon didn't begin to
31 freeze until late September, and it froze very slow.
32 The temperatures hovered between 32 and 28 degrees.
33 The water was very low and very warm, flowing out of
34 the foothills. And the animals had not arrived. The
35 herd was not there. By October 1st Wainwright had only
36 harvested 10 percent of the caribou it needed for the
37 next year. And the lagoon as it froze, people were
38 breaking ice with their paddles and with the hulls of
39 their boat to go that 38 miles up there to find the
40 caribou, and the caribou were moving fast on the
41 hilltops. Weren't coming close to the river system.
42 I'll tell you, they don't like bare ice. Caribou
43 cannot walk on bare ice. And so they were staying well
44 high in the foothills beyond the reach of the hunters,
45 and they were moving fast, and they were shy,
46 intimidated by the sound of the motorboats.

47
48 We had a number of near miss accidents,
49 could have been fatalities resulting from the hunters
50 attempting to get caribou in mid-October, because they

1 were trying to reach them by boat with the thin ice on
2 the lagoon. They couldn't travel by land, there was no
3 snow on the (In Inupiaq), and it was -- people who were
4 attempting it were just destroying their snowmachine
5 suspensions.

6
7 By the time we met in Anaktuvuk Pass in
8 early October, we were congratulating ourselves on
9 completing a special action proposal to limit the
10 harvest of caribou from 15 to 5, no bulls after October
11 15th. Only three cows from October 15th to December
12 15th. No bulls during the rut, of course. And only
13 three cows. And this is Wainwright's first exposure to
14 this new rule, this new special action. And they had
15 no caribou.

16
17 But by November it finally started
18 getting cold, and the snowmachines moves out. They
19 moved out on the lagoon, they moved up along the edges
20 of the lagoon, and the caribou came like crazy.
21 Thousands, tens of thousands. The hills were black
22 with them. So you think they just took three caribou?
23 These caribou were moving fast, and it was late, it was
24 getting in the middle of November. These people had to
25 put some meat in their freezer, and they had to do it
26 right now. And they took that regulation that we
27 created and they threw it right in the garbage. Thank
28 you, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for not
29 criminalizing the people of my community, because they
30 had to do what they had to do. Hunger knows no law.

31
32 I feel like we made a big mistake.
33 We're making management plans not knowing what the
34 future is going to look like, but making management
35 plans based on our memory of the past, which is not the
36 reality of our future. I'm really intimidated right
37 now. I'm scared to make a decision.

38
39 Fortunately everything's okay for
40 Wainwright today. Things are going well. The community
41 is healthy despite Shell Oil has pulled out of the
42 Chukchi Sea, and the development and the economic
43 opportunities the community was expecting for years and
44 years to develop is gone. The community has pulled in,
45 and they've become an even harder subsistence community
46 than they ever have been before. They realize that
47 that is their future from here and for the next couple
48 decades, that there will be no economic development
49 plan in their future, and that their future lies in
50 having a healthy environment and a healthy subsistence

1 economy. That is the future for Wainwright today.
2 It's a complete reversal from their development plan a
3 year ago. So that's something to be cognizant of.

4
5 You're not going to hear me saying too
6 much, contributing a lot these days. You might have
7 noticed that I've been pretty quiet until now. It's
8 because I feel insecure about my decisions that I've
9 made in the past and moving forward into the future.

10
11 Thank you.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Bob,
14 for sharing that.

15
16 Like I said, we're going through our
17 changes in real time, you know. When we discuss
18 something of the past, that is very recent. Twenty
19 years ago. Or 10 years ago. Things have changed so
20 rapidly, even what we decide on just in a two-year time
21 frame seems to be not sufficient or causing more impact
22 to the availability of resource to our hunters. I see
23 that very clearly. I mean, you know, I've been saying
24 that to my boss, Taqulik, about the changes are so
25 rapid, the changes that we're trying to make now don't
26 make sense in a couple years.

27
28 Yeah. I mean, I've seen that from
29 these other -- what we're trying to do for Anaktuvuk.
30 You know, with our North Slope Fish and Game Management
31 Committee, we went -- like James explained earlier in
32 his comments, that we went down to Bethel to meet with
33 the Board of Game there to try and remedy a situation
34 for Anaktuvuk on caribou. And it had a sunset clause
35 after three years I think within their cycle, the State
36 cycle, of caribou regulations. And, you know, that
37 thing went by so fast, it didn't mean anything to us.
38 I don't even if it even made any changes to the
39 community. And when we went to our Regional Advisory
40 Council meeting there in Anaktuvuk Pass, it seemed to
41 have failed, because the caribou were not -- regardless
42 of that -- what was that called, that big square we
43 made north of Anaktuvuk? A closure area. Regardless
44 of that thing in place, they never hit. I mean, the
45 caribou were either delayed or didn't make it into the
46 communities, or to become available for the community.
47 And yet that's what we were trying to generate, to make
48 them more available to the community, to the hunters,
49 and it seemed to be it failed, and now we're taking
50 different measures to try and adjust that to meet the

1 need.

2

3

4 But now it's a bigger picture. It's
5 not just one community. It's all of our neighboring
6 communities as well. The Northwest Arctic, Point Hope,
7 Anaktuvuk. You know, you see what your changes are
8 going through in Wainwright. We see that on the North
9 Slope in Barrow. Gordon and I have seen these changes
10 because of shifts of movement now. We were just
11 sitting with somebody, Gordon, earlier today. They
12 were saying that the shift of caribou, where they have
13 been migrating for hundreds of years, the ruts are two
14 feet deep because of the same trail these caribou have
15 been moving for years, all these years, are that deep.
16 They keep following those same trails. And because of
17 the shift, the caribou aren't there any more.
18 Something's made them shift. It was the regulation
19 changes on the take of these animals, taking the shift
20 from taking bulls only for so many years, and then now
21 there's a shift to take cows, because there's not too
22 many bulls any more. The bulls are so low in number,
23 they're taking all the cows, and within those cows that
24 they're taking, these are the lead animals that lead
25 the migration. And when they're starting to get to
26 those -- near those communities, they're taking those
27 lead animals, and then the caribou seem to be getting
28 lost in their own movements, and they could disperse
29 and spread all over, and eventually come back at a
30 later point in a different area where they're not
31 supposed to be.

31

32

33 So these kind of things and
34 observations are being made from our local people, and
35 trying to express that to the resource managers, and
36 how do we fix these? You know, it seemed to be we're
37 changing the regulations so fast, it's not applicable
38 any more. And there's no enforcement behind it, you
39 know, and that kind of thing. But with the other
40 resources, you know, like what Ernest was saying, you
41 better watch out, because there's a quota on these
42 resources, and the enforcement is going to be right
43 behind them to implement that regulatory regulation
44 that was generated for that resource.

44

45

46 So, you're right, we have to be careful
47 and be more mindful of and cognizant of how we perceive
48 things and how to move forward from then on. I think
49 we're in that situation where everything's moving so
50 fast it's not keeping up with our communications.
51 Yeah. And that's what we've been saying for the last

1 five, six years. Our communications is way too slow,
2 and yet our Federal government is telling us, do more
3 for less, you know. When are they going to catch up to
4 us? We're moving, drawn back. We've slowed down so to
5 speak, but they're still behind us some place trying to
6 catch up. And yet we're going through these changes.
7 You know, I make my own observations again.

8

9 Thank you for your comments, Bob.
10 These are very serious comments, and there needs to be
11 that level of communications. We don't want to fall
12 backwards. We want to try and move forward and improve
13 and tweak the languages that we have to identify with
14 now. I think that's the way forward we have to be
15 mindful of. So I'll stop here.

16

17 Gordon.

18

19 And thank you again, Bob.

20

21 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, just in support
22 of Bob Shears and Wainwright, yeah, there's times
23 you're going to have to do something because of dire
24 straits for the community. But I think the common
25 sense approach we had to propose regulation change,
26 because somebody else is going to do it and it's going
27 to be more harder. Somebody else is going to make that
28 regulation for us, and we ought to be proactive to do
29 common sense approach. It's a conservation measure
30 when we say no bulls from October 10 to December 5.
31 That's a conservation measure. Besides, they're
32 stinking, you know. Bulls are, the big ones, we don't
33 want to catch them at that time anyway. And they're
34 common sense. Some of them are rooted in traditional
35 view.

36

37 But I encourage you not to hold back,
38 but to let us be aware, too. Maybe the things you have
39 squirrel caging behind your mind, it's got to be
40 important to us to be cognizant about.

41

42 That's all I wanted to add.

43

44 Thank you.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
47 sharing that, Gordon.

48

49 Rosemary.

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Bob, I also wanted
2 to say that it does take years to see the effects from
3 some of our decisions. It's not something we're going
4 to see in a year's time in most of it. We'll be lucky
5 if we see them in five years, but more likely closer to
6 10. But the reality is, if we're not taking actions
7 and we delay some of these actions, the reactions and
8 the hardships upon our communities are likely to be
9 much harder and for a longer period of time. And so
10 for me, I know it is very hard to make some of these
11 decisions.

12
13 But I've also had to be the one that
14 opened up the clinic, and I didn't have a food bank to
15 give people when we had no food in the ice cellars.
16 And to deal with those hardships as people brought the
17 stories and came and requested for assistance and there
18 wasn't any assistance to give, I don't want to suffer
19 through those kind of winters again. And whatever we
20 can do to make these management systems in place to
21 give us hopes that we're going to have some numbers to
22 continue to harvest is why I still come to these
23 meetings regardless of the hardship and the burdens we
24 carry in addressing some of these decisions.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did I do that, or
29 did somebody else. Magic.

30
31 Anyway, thank you, Rosemary. Tom.

32
33 MR. EVANS: So I wanted to comment on
34 Bob's comments. I really appreciate your comments,
35 because, you know, we develop these regulations, but we
36 don't know the effects of them. And I guess the big
37 question I have with that, was the total number of
38 caribou taken kind of within the average of what
39 Wainwright would have taken anyhow, even though it all
40 happened in a really short time frame? So in a sense,
41 you know, it wasn't really over-harvest. It just
42 happened that they all came at the same time. So this
43 shows you some of the limitations that regulations
44 have. And Rosemary and Gordon have both mentioned
45 that there's going to be conservation benefits. It may
46 take some time. But I think we also have to recognize
47 that when the opportunities occur, people have to be
48 right on it, you know, to catch the animals. A lot of
49 times people are out there, you know, there might be 15
50 people out shooting. And so I'm not too concerned

1 about it, if not more animals were taken.

2

3 And then I also wanted to comment on
4 Ernest's comment. And I would like -- I worked with
5 Marine Mammals for 20 years, and I worked with polar
6 bears. So I'm very familiar with the issues with that.
7 And when they first developed the regulations for the
8 international bilateral treaty with Russia, so we're
9 talking about the Chukchi Sea polar bear population, we
10 were very specific about saying Icy Strait on south.
11 Now, because of the language of the regulations, the
12 politicians in Washington, D.C. have decided it's going
13 to be Barrow. And nobody from the communities, nobody
14 from Marine Mammals thought that was a good idea, but
15 now here it is, that's the idea. So it would be
16 something that I think would hold some weight if you
17 guys would write a letter to Washington, D.C., or
18 through the help, and encourage them to change that, to
19 make it at least Icy Strait on south, because that's
20 where the -- yes, the Chukchi population overlaps with
21 the Beaufort Sea population in that Barrow/Wainwright
22 area to some degree, but if you look at the harvest
23 records and stuff, you know, the primary polar bear
24 population they're trying to protect is from Icy
25 Straits south.

26

27 And 29 bears is not very many bears.
28 Twenty-nine bears is going to go quick. I mean, I've
29 tagged 26 bears in Point Hope in one visit, you know,
30 one time. It just so happens that they got a lot of
31 bears in a relatively short period of time, just like
32 you were talking about with caribou.

33

34 So even though it's not an issue that's
35 directly related to the Subsistence Council and what we
36 deal with, because it's polar bears, it's marine
37 mammals, it's outside, I still think a letter might be
38 a good thing to do.

39

40 So that was just my comments.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
43 you for sharing that, Tom. I think we could maybe at
44 some point think about drafting a letter in that
45 regards.

46

47 Enoch had his hand up earlier. I've
48 been meaning to bring him up.

49

50 MR. SHIEDT: Yeah. Attamuk here.

1 Chairman for Northwest Alaska.

2

3 We put a proposal together to stop
4 transporters and outfitters from coming in to Northwest
5 Alaska. The reason why is we're having so much
6 conflict falltime for them coming in and diverting our
7 caribou and our people are not getting them. And we
8 would like to see it in place by July. But they've got
9 to understand from Northwest Alaska some people don't
10 like it. But we're asking for only one year phase to
11 see what happen. If the caribou are still down from
12 570,000 plus strong to 260,000 or less, want to put it
13 in place to start a process to save the main users.
14 What I mean by, me and the rest of my Eskimos that I
15 live with, to be able to harvest caribou. That's all
16 we're going to do, is try to do it one-year basis. But
17 if the numbers go back up, it's going to be for one
18 year, and it's going to drop. But if they keep
19 declining, we'd like to try it again for another year
20 also.

21

22 The other part is for Steve's concern
23 about the marine line traffic. I think everybody
24 should worry about it. I'll give you an example. When
25 it happened in Kotzebue years ago, they were dumping
26 waste out to the bay. Tom cod, bullhead, herring,
27 smelt and sheefish within the time they were dumping to
28 our bay, the city, they -- you could smell waste in
29 them. What I'm saying, that is cruise ships when
30 they're dumping their waste to the ocean out there.
31 And for our seals, our crab, or whatever is in the
32 ocean, it's going to taste like that. We, the people
33 that depend on the ocean, we're going to hurt. And
34 it's going to have a big die off. Sure, I live off the
35 land, but I live off the ocean, too. I grew up in
36 Noatak.

37

38 So I think that's one thing that
39 concerns you guys that we need to start worrying about
40 the cruise ship that's going up north. Last year they
41 had 12 that went through Kotzebue. I talked to a
42 couple of them, and they said, where are you from? I
43 said, I'm from Noatak, but I didn't tell them I moved
44 to Kotzebue. I was trying to get information from the
45 people. They would brag, oh, we go up there. Yet
46 Alaska Airlines, two planeloads left, another bunch
47 coming. And they said they're going to do that 12
48 times. That's a lot of waste that's going out there,
49 my friends. I mean, we have to worry about it.

50

1 And for that one year when we had a die
2 off near Cape Thompson, I asked Jim Dau, and we flew to
3 see, but we did not even see -- get one. With a metal
4 detector, we did not even get one with a bullet or
5 around the carcass. We counted over 1300 caribou that
6 died. About one week of surveys back and forth, back
7 and forth Cape Thompson. There was no bullet in them.
8 They died naturally. And when we looked at the -- when
9 the opened the stomach, it had rocks in them like you
10 said. And they were real skinny, the meat. When we
11 checked the buttock there was hardly anything in there.
12 It means pure starvation. Mother Nature do its own
13 way, but we people got to worry about it, to not to let
14 it happen. That's why I don't want the caribou's to
15 crash.

16
17 My people depend heavily on caribou,
18 that they need it just for survival for we are people
19 in season. When geese are coming, our bodies will
20 start craving for geese. When the fish are coming, we
21 start craving for fresh fish. We are people in season.
22 We're a one cycle, year cycle people. Hardly ever
23 change. And if one decline, what do we do? We hurt
24 inside. we will crave for it.

25
26 Thank you.

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
29 Attamuk, for sharing that with us.

30
31 Any other comments, concerns.

32
33 (No comments)

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, we can
36 move on to the next agenda item. Chair's report. I
37 think I'm done. I think -- I was just looking back in
38 terms of our materials in our booklet, and I was
39 looking at this letter to Tim. Is that the draft we're
40 sending for this year's, Eva.

41
42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
43 That is your draft annual report to the Federal
44 Subsistence Board. And, yes, that is this year's so
45 those topics were generated over the last year, and
46 particular identified at the Anaktuvuk Pass meeting and
47 drafted into this annual report. The review of the
48 annual report we have coming up under new business.

49
50 We still had a couple things under old

1 business on the agenda. One is an update on the OSM
2 proposed amendment to Unit 26 caribou. And this we had
3 discussed with the Council and I sent you the maps,
4 proposal to create hunt areas that would delineate the
5 Teshekpuk and the Central Arctic Herd to allow for
6 greater harvest opportunity of the Central Arctic Herd
7 which is healthy. So Tom was going to provide that
8 update for the Council.

9

10 And then we do have the National Park
11 Service proposed rule which has been a long time in the
12 works. It was called horns and antlers proposal to
13 allow the collection of horns and antlers and other
14 resources in the national parks for subsistence uses.
15 And we have Greg here to provide that update, and they
16 are seeking feedback. The comment period -- that
17 proposed rule is now in the Federal Register and the
18 comment period is open.

19

20 Those are the two things that were up
21 next on the agenda.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. In regard
24 to the Chair's report, I'm trying to think back, Eva,
25 in terms of I think I went to the Western Arctic
26 Caribou Working Group meeting, and there were some
27 discussions about the caribou and the proposed
28 regulation changes. There were discussions of the same
29 presentation we heard from Lincoln and Jim Dau,
30 President Lincoln Perrett.

31

32 If you don't know him, Steve, it's
33 Lincoln Perrett. He's been with our State -- Alaska
34 Department of Fish and Game, and he grew up around
35 Barrow, and then moved on to Kaktovik for a few years,
36 and then went to University of Fairbanks I think for
37 higher education. And now he's back in Fairbanks
38 working for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. We
39 call him President Lincoln all the time because Lincoln
40 is his first name. So if you hear me saying President
41 Lincoln, that's who I'm referring to.

42

43 Was there somebody on the phone wanting
44 to comment. President Lincoln.

45

46 (No comments)

47

48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If not, anyway I
49 think the biggest discussion point, transporters, there
50 was a lot of representation from transporters, guides.

1 A lot of representatives from the west Arctic region,
2 and the similar issues that we've been discussing here
3 were pretty much discussed during that time of the
4 Western Arctic Caribou Working Group meeting, and the
5 concerns of the decline were also being addressed. And
6 I think they were looking to generating a proposal
7 reflecting the declines and what needs to occur in
8 terms of the amount of animals being removed from that
9 population. I think that was discussed as well. We've
10 seen the proposal. I think that was the very same
11 proposal that the State generated with Jim Dau and
12 Lincoln helped, with the assistance of the working
13 group, that had commented on that proposal as well,
14 along with probably the Unit, is it 23? I'm trying to
15 think of the Northwest Arctic region, and there's
16 representation from Point Hope. There was
17 representation from Anaktuvuk and Nuiqsut I think. I
18 can't recall who were all from the North Slope that are
19 members to that Western Arctic Caribou Working Group.
20 So that occurred in December? Yeah. I've been so many
21 meetings, I'm just trying to recall when all this
22 information, and just having an oral presentation here,
23 and then in communications to you in terms of what I
24 recall.

25
26 Maybe if I miss anything, Eva, if you
27 could help in some of the discussion points.

28
29 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
30 That was an excellent update of the Western Arctic
31 Caribou Herd Working Group. And this Council along
32 with Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council, the
33 Seward Peninsula Regional Advisory Council, and Western
34 Interior Regional Advisory Council will have your own
35 Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herd Working Group
36 meeting on Friday, so many of those same proposals that
37 Harry had an opportunity to participate in at the
38 working group meeting, Lincoln will be here to provide
39 an overview presentation very similar to the one at the
40 working group. And also Nicky Braum from the
41 Subsistence Division will provide an update on
42 subsistence harvest. So much of what happened at the
43 working group meeting, that information will be shared
44 for all four Councils on Friday morning at 8:30 until
45 about 12:30 in the afternoon.

46
47 And then we'll have an opportunity, the
48 North Slope and the Northwest Arctic Council have a
49 joint session in the afternoon on Friday to share some
50 of the common interests and knowledge, and also to

1 discuss their special action request.

2

3 So much of what happened there, there's
4 an opportunity on Friday for everyone to get that same
5 information.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
8 that, Eva. You mentioned something about we'll have a
9 discussion point within the agenda of our annual
10 report.

11

12 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
13 The annual report comes a little later on the agenda.
14 We have several other things that come first in terms
15 of completing the last of the updates on the caribou
16 proposal, and then the Gates of the Arctic subsistence
17 collections. We have Karen Hyer will speak to the
18 FRMP, which we noted this morning, prior information
19 needs for subsistence fisheries. And then we get down
20 to annual report. So usually that comes towards the
21 tail end of the meeting, so if there's any review from
22 the meeting the Council would like to add to that
23 report, we have that opportunity.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: All right. Thank
26 you. I'm just looking at our agenda item.

27

28 If there's no other comments to the
29 Chair's report, we could move to the next agenda item.

30

31

32 Public and tribal comments on non-
33 agenda items. Did we have any information regarding
34 that agenda item.

35

36 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair. Public
37 comments, we've had here. James Nageak is
38 participating as a public member here. We also had
39 others that were attending the meeting that have shared
40 from their region. There were no specific requests for
41 comments from the tribes to the Council at this time.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Under
44 old business, agenda item 10, we'll move on to the next
45 page, is the OSM proposed amendments to Unit 26A
46 caribou regulatory proposal, the split hunt area to
47 manage the Teshekpuk and Western Arctic Caribou Herds
48 separately.

49

50 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

1 You should also have -- there's a summary in the back
2 of your meeting books, and then we have a map also that
3 I can distribute.

4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Proposal No.
6 North-22. NS-22. Is that what we're referring to.

7
8 MR. EVANS: Yes, that's correct.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: NS-22. I guess
11 that must be the page numbers.

12
13 And thank you, James, for your
14 participation again if you're looking to leave at this
15 time. Quyana. Yes, sir. Thank you very much.

16
17 So, Tom, I'll give you the floor. You
18 can then give us a synopsis on our discussion topic on
19 26A caribou.

20
21 MR. EVANS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
22 members of the Board -- or members of the Council.

23
24 I'm going to just present -- so last
25 fall when we had the Council meeting, you know,
26 numerous proposals were submitted to change the caribou
27 regulations in the Federal subsistence regulations for
28 the 2016/2018 season. Following the recommendations
29 made at the fall Regional Advisory Council meetings,
30 Office of Subsistence Staff updated their
31 recommendations. In an attempt to provide consistency
32 among all the proposals, consideration was given to the
33 seasonal movements and migration patterns of different
34 caribou herds, the need for conservation actions for
35 the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the Teshekpuk
36 Caribou Herd, as well as the need to provide subsistence
37 opportunity for Federally-qualified subsistence users.

38
39
40 The proposed changes to these
41 regulations that we have now were not included in the
42 OSM preliminary conclusion in the wildlife proposals
43 presented at the fall Regional Advisory Council
44 meetings. And now are included as an addendum for the
45 Federal Subsistence Board. These can be found, a
46 summary, a written summary is on Page 22, NS-22 of the
47 North Slope Council book. You'll have to pardon me, I
48 have a cold, so I may be hoarse every now and then.
49 And on Page 23 gives the North Slope recommendation
50 that was acted on at the fall meeting, and then on Page

1 24 is a proposal of the new proposed changes in the new
2 regulations.

3

4 And basically what the changes were, we
5 decided based on the information we heard that it would
6 be best to split Unit 26A up into a north half and a
7 south half based on the range and seasonal migration
8 patterns of the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and the Western
9 Arctic Caribou Herd. The Teshekpuk Caribou Herd occurs
10 primarily in the north half, and the Western Arctic
11 Caribou Herd occurs primarily in the south half of Unit
12 26A.

13

14 The regulations are specific to each
15 herd. This reflects some of the concerns raised by the
16 North Slope RAC over lumping ANS for both the Western
17 Arctic and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd under the State
18 regulations. Gordon mentioned that again today. A
19 reminder, this is a Federal regulations and would not
20 affect the current State regulations.

21

22 The main concern, which Gordon also
23 expressed today, is that the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd
24 warrants further conservation -- greater conservation
25 measures, and thus should be managed separately, and
26 thus splitting Unit 26A into two hunt areas would help
27 address this concern under the Federal subsistence
28 regulations.

29

30 The cow season for the north half of
31 Unit 26A, which would be the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd,
32 reflects the need to protect the cow/calf bonds early
33 in the breeding season, and because more protection is
34 needed due to the population status, the high natural
35 cow mortality, and low recruitment into the Teshekpuk
36 Caribou herd. To avoid reduced survival of calves
37 through abandonment by hunter-harvested cows, the
38 harvest limit excludes cows accompanied by calves
39 during the period from July 16th to October 15th.
40 After October 15th, calves are more independent and
41 thus have a better chance of survival if they become
42 separated from their mother. We also heard that it is
43 the local practice of subsistence hunters not to take
44 cows and leave an orphaned calf, so that they know when
45 a calf is grown up enough to be on its own.

46

47 The longer cow season for the south
48 half reflects the availability of the Western Arctic
49 Caribou Herd on Federal public lands to Federally-
50 qualified subsistence users. This seasons a little bit

1 -- the cow season is a little bit longer, and this was
2 to give more opportunity for folks in Anaktuvuk Pass to
3 harvest caribou.

4
5 The differences from the Federal
6 subsistence regulations are basically the same as it
7 was for what we presented last fall. The differences
8 from the fall RAC recommendation is the fact that we
9 just split Unit 26A up into two hunt areas. The season
10 dates for bulls and cows are the same as for the north
11 half, and the cow season was extended up to April 30th,
12 and the restriction on three cows per day was removed.

13
14 Differences from the State regulations.
15 Again we kept the December 6th starting date for
16 hunting season for bulls on both the north and south
17 area. And the cow season is essentially the same as
18 the State season for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd, which
19 is the north area. And Unit 26A was the only area
20 within the State regulations that protects cows with
21 calves. This provision was not carried over to other
22 areas, because of potential difficulties with
23 enforcement and actually determining which cows were
24 with calves.

25
26 So that's the summary of it. And
27 basically this is just information so that you know
28 that we've kind of changed our thoughts on Unit 26A.
29 And it's pretty similar to the State regulations now.

30
31 That's all. Thanks.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So before we get
34 into the discussion of it, let me just go through this
35 process that's been identified in the back of your name
36 plates here. Presentation procedures for proposals.
37 Introduction and presentation of analysis.

38
39 Report on Board consultation with
40 tribes and ANCSA corporations. Who's being responding
41 to that. was there any efforts made to that end.

42
43 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
44 This is an update to a proposal that was presented to
45 the Councils in the fall, and went through the public
46 process in the fall. So this is a slight modification
47 to the recommendation that OSM is making for
48 clarification of those hunt areas. So this doesn't go
49 through an additional full public process. It's an
50 amendment that's being suggested, or a modification

1 that's being suggested.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And then so this
4 thing goes out the door then. I just want to make sure
5 I'm following the proper conditions.

6

7 MS. PATTON: No, you're right there.
8 Yeah. Thank you. Thank you. Yeah. So this is an
9 opportunity for the Council to discuss it or ask
10 questions.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Agency comments,
13 advisory comments, summary of written public comments,
14 public testimony. All that doesn't have to be applied
15 here. And then we'll go right to No. 7, Regional
16 Council recommendations. Discussions. If I moved too
17 fast, if there's an opportunity for any of these other
18 groups. I don't know if they have a presence or not.

19

20 Tom.

21

22 MR. EVANS: So you're correct. So
23 we're just basically getting any comments you guys
24 might have on what we're going to present to the
25 Federal Subsistence Board, and so just to see what your
26 thoughts are on it.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'll open it for
29 the Council discussions, or comments. Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.
32 Gordon Brower for the record.

33

34 So this was kind of what I was thinking
35 when you're looking at two distinct herds, and one
36 being much smaller than the other. The concern I have,
37 you said the State regs are unaffected, and is that
38 only on State land. If you're a resident of the State,
39 wanted to hunt on Federal public lands, they would have
40 to look at this, and either they're not allowed, or
41 they have to abide by the regulation on Federal public
42 land.

43

44 MR. EVANS: So if a hunter -- if these
45 regulations get accepted by the Board, so the
46 regulations as OSM's written them. If they get
47 accepted and have the two hunt areas, any hunt that
48 occurs on Federal public lands by Federally-qualified
49 subsistence users, would have to go by the regulations
50 that are in the updated subsistence regulations. And

1 as you know, in 26A a lot of that area is Federal
2 public land, and in fact it's NPR-A and BLM land. So
3 it covers a large portion of that unit.

4
5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did that help,
6 Gordon.

7
8 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe just one more to
9 clarify as well.

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Continue.

12
13 MR. G. BROWER: This is not having the
14 same effect as what's going on in the Northwest Arctic
15 Borough and closing or restricting non-Federally-
16 qualified user?

17
18 MR. EVANS: Correct. We're not doing
19 that.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Questions,
22 comments from Council. Rosemary.

23
24 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I agree with the
25 discussion that's leading to the breakup of the
26 management of this. This is taking two -- I guess it
27 wouldn't because of Point Hope's questions about the
28 boundaries, and there needs to include the discussions
29 that's on the south side of them, right, Steve? That's
30 not going to be included in this?

31
32 MR. EVANS: So this regulation is for
33 26A. And the regulations that really take effect for
34 Point Hope were in Unit 23. And the recommendation
35 that the Council made for Unit 23 was to separate out
36 that little northwest corner, have some regulations for
37 that, and then the rest of Unit 23 was kind of lumped
38 as one unit, and the caribou regulations for that. So
39 this doesn't really effect that, even though there is
40 some area -- residents from Point Hope could cross the
41 boundary in 26A and get in there, but most of that land
42 is State land where they can get to, not Federal land.

43
44 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think that
45 clarifies it. Thank you.

46
47 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. Just one
48 more.

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

1 MR. G. BROWER: This is probably pretty
2 dumb, but I just want to understand. On the blue,
3 being that this is blue, reflecting probably Teshekpuk
4 herd area, one bull for non-resident. It's a State
5 non-resident. So is the definition of non-resident the
6 same as the State's in this case, or is this a non-
7 resident of a rural community?

8
9 MR. EVANS: Where do you see non-
10 resident?

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: This thing here.

13
14 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Gordon. So
15 the last series in the back is just a compilation of
16 all the current State and Federal regulations for each
17 unit.

18
19 MR. G. BROWER: All right. I'm on the
20 wrong page?

21
22 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So we're in the
23 packet. Some people have picked up the new meeting
24 book, so it didn't have this particular proposal.
25 There you go, yeah.

26
27 MR. EVANS: So, Gordon, if you flip
28 that page, which I was just noticing, the one that has
29 the yellow highlighting, so that's like the new
30 regulations, the ones we're proposing.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Okay. Well, I'm going
33 to have to turn my red light off, because I've got to
34 read.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So the changes are
37 highlighted in yellow.

38
39 MR. EVANS: Correct.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So this one goes
42 only up to Anaktuvuk River drainages. Chukchi Sea
43 south. Colville River.

44
45 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

48
49 MR. G. BROWER: If there are different
50 management schemes between the blue and the pink,

1 what's the harvest recommendations for either one. Are
2 there differences?

3

4 MR. EVANS: There are a few
5 differences. So if you look at the top part of that
6 table there, that's for the.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom, before we get
9 too far. Make sure that all the Council members are on
10 the same page as you and Gordon. When you're referring
11 to the blue and pink, what are you looking at? The
12 color map. Oh, there it is. It got thrown out. Okay.
13 Continue, Tom.

14

15 Thank you.

16

17 MR. EVANS: So the blue area is the
18 Teshekpuk Caribou Herd area, and the pink is the
19 Western Arctic Caribou Herd area. In the table that
20 you have that's got the yellow highlighting, the
21 Western Arctic Caribou Herd is listed first, and then
22 the northern -- 26A remainder is the northern area.

23

24 So Gordon was asking about the
25 differences between the two areas. The bull seasons
26 are identical between the two areas. The limit of five
27 caribou per day is the same in the two areas. However,
28 the no harvest of calves isn't the same in the two
29 areas.

30

31 The cow season's a little bit different
32 in the two areas. For the Western Arctic Caribou Herd,
33 the cow season there is a little bit longer. It goes
34 from July 15th to April 30th versus July 16th to March
35 15th in the Teshekpuk area. And in the Teshekpuk area
36 there's also a limit of three cows per day, which there
37 isn't for the Western Arctic Caribou area. So those
38 are the differences between the two areas.

39

40 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair. It seems to
41 be there's not very much difference. My concern is I
42 wanted to make sure it reflected some of our dialogue
43 we had when we were making the proposals. Some of the
44 dates and wording seem to have been problematic while
45 were at Anaktuvuk. In fact, I think we had some
46 heartburn over it a little bit. But I want to make
47 sure -- and I can't readily remember exactly some dates
48 that we talked about, But noting that the cows that
49 are pregnant, start to get noticeably pregnant, you
50 know, they're showing that, and I think that was a

1 period of time we wanted to also try to protect that in
2 March when they're heavily, you know, either -- yeah,
3 because when you harvest one and you're looking at,
4 it's basically got a full formed baby little caribou in
5 there, and it's always -- you know, that (In Inupiaq)
6 in there.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So what do you
9 call a baby caribou when it's in the mother.

10

11 MR. EVANS: That would be like a fetus,
12 what we would call it.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I wasn't
15 sure if it would be the same as a human being or not,
16 that there might be a different term. So that would be
17 called a fetus in the cow caribou. So that's what the
18 concern is being identified with, Tom. And does that
19 reflect the closure period for that time frame.

20

21 MR. EVANS: So in the fall we had the
22 cow season that the RAC agreed upon at that point was
23 three cows per day, July 16th to March 15th, so just to
24 the middle of March, so we cut it off there. And then
25 for the southern area, for the Western Arctic Caribou
26 Herd, we extended that a little bit longer to give more
27 opportunity for the folks like in Anaktuvuk Pass to be
28 able to harvest caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou
29 Herd. And it also reflects the timing of when those
30 caribou are available to those folks in the more
31 southern areas.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Does that help,
34 Gordon.

35

36 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair. It
37 helps, and I think it's a starting point. I think we
38 need to have a starting point in any kind of
39 conservation effort. And I think it's -- I'd just
40 leave it at that. But I do think, because of the size
41 of the Teshekpuk Herd, that the Federal government
42 should do some real population estimates on its own as
43 well to corroborate what the State is saying.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

46

47 Any other comments regarding the
48 proposed recommendations, or the update on the
49 modifications to the OSM's recommendations. Further
50 dialogue. Are we all in agreement with this.

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just want to make
2 sure that we get the transcription from the Anaktuvuk
3 meeting included as back up for this documentation on
4 these changes, so we include that as part of the
5 record.

6
7 Thank you.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was just looking
10 and waiting. We need an action to accept the changes,
11 to make it reflect that we're in agreement with the
12 OSM's proposed language of this regulation change.

13
14 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair. If
15 we need an action I guess in the form of a motion, I
16 would make a motion to accept the proposed changes as
17 submitted by OSM.

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the
20 floor.

21
22 MR. G. BROWER: If that's the proper
23 language.

24
25 Tom.

26
27 MR. EVANS: So I appreciate that. So I
28 understand the support. Based on -- I guess this was
29 -- because the Council already decided on what their
30 recommendation was at the fall meeting, at this time
31 we're just basically trying to provide you with the
32 update of what we are going to recommend to the Federal
33 Subsistence Board. So the Board will hear our
34 recommendation, which does split the areas. You guys
35 have supported that at least verbally, and I don't
36 think we need to do an action item or a motion at this
37 time, because you've already accepted the previous
38 motion at the previous Council meeting.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. I was
41 trying to figure out where -- with these modifications
42 or these updates on the changes, how would that be
43 reflected into our action that we've taken in the
44 previous meeting.

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon. I
49 would think that we're going to need an action from
50 this Council.

1 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, because there are
2 subtle changes in dates for the remainder I guess
3 versus the Western Arctic Herd from what I'm
4 understanding. The remainder being the Teshekpuk Herd,
5 right?

6
7 MR. EVANS: So the Board would have
8 basically three -- would basically have recommendations
9 from the Council. They'd have recommendations from the
10 ISC, and they have recommendations from OSM. They'll
11 all be a little bit different. But an action item,
12 it's not needed. I mean, it shows that you support
13 this at this time, but then the Board can make a
14 decision as to what -- and you can express when you
15 present your action item -- or the action on this
16 proposal at the Federal Board meeting. You can mention
17 that you've heard about what OSM did, and you supported
18 it. At that time then the Board can make a decision as
19 to what they want to do with it, but it doesn't need a
20 separate action item at this time, at least according
21 to the Staff.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve.

24
25 MR. OOMITUK: So you're saying that
26 when you present it to the Board, are you presenting it
27 later on and that you have the North Slope Borough
28 RAC's -- you know, we support this? Are you asking
29 that you want to -- when you do present this proposal,
30 that the North Slope Borough RAC is going along?

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve, it's the
33 North Slope Federal RAC. It's not the North Slope
34 Borough. It's the North Slope Federal RAC.

35
36 MR. OOMITUK: Federal RAC. Yeah.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yeah. There we
39 go. So, you know, I could help Tom. I'll be at the
40 meeting when they call for the Federal Subsistence
41 Board meeting representing our Council as the Chair.
42 And if I can't make it, one of the other Council
43 members will have a presence, as to who we'd find able
44 to be there. Not knowing the exact timing of the
45 meeting, you know, that's something we'll have to
46 identify with pretty soon here. I'll be working with
47 Eva and Tom and folks in reviewing our proposal and the
48 recommended changes. And if we're in agreement with
49 them here, I think that I could state that we support
50 OSM's recommended modification to this proposal.

1 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.

4

5 MS. PATTON: So the Federal Subsistence
6 Board is scheduled to meet April 11th I believe, and
7 tentatively scheduled through the 15th if they need
8 that long. So the Board will meet at that time. And
9 the way -- so all the Councils have made a
10 recommendation at the fall meeting on the Federal
11 subsistence proposals that were submitted both by
12 Council members, and public, and tribes. Councils make
13 those recommendations, and those go forward to the
14 Board. And then each Chair from each region is in --
15 is present at that meeting and presents the Council's
16 recommendations on behalf of the Council. And we help
17 prepare the summaries, so there's the action items from
18 the fall meeting and also I can include in that
19 summary, too, that the Council discussed this OSM
20 modification and, you know, had discussed the support
21 for it. So we'll include that detail in there, so
22 Harry as the Chair or others who are presenting have
23 the full information of the Council to present to the
24 Board.

25

26 Thank you.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you. Eva.

29

30 Any further discussion on this subject.
31 I guess we don't need an action item at this time.

32

33 Rosemary.

34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah. The only area
36 that we haven't discussed is the concern that came up
37 from a participant from the Eastern Interior around the
38 Board of Game changes to the cow hunt in the northern
39 part of the Dalton Highway and the Unit 26B on the east
40 side. Yeah. That was the note that I gave you that
41 talked about making sure that we had considerations on
42 the -- the Board of Game made the changes to have five
43 cow hunt, and that's a concern that's maybe affecting
44 the concerns that came out through Anaktuvuk, and we
45 haven't covered that as part of the communications.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe let's get
48 over these items, and then we'll bring this up as a
49 separate item.

50

1 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Perfect.
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Tom, did you have
4 another proposal for consideration.
5
6 MR. EVANS: I had nothing else. Mr.
7 Chair.
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's it. Eva,
10 did you have anything else we need to cover within the
11 agenda item old business.
12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. We
14 do have the National Park Service is here to present
15 the proposed rule. So that is open for comment. This
16 had come before the Council before on the updates as
17 they were developing it, and it is now final on the
18 Federal Register. So we're fortunate to have Greg
19 here, and he can provide the overview. And this would
20 be an action item if the Council wants to make a
21 recommendation on the proposed rule.
22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So just to be
24 clear, we just addressed 10.A, OSM's proposed amendment
25 to the Unit 26A caribou regulatory proposal. Okay.
26
27 MS. PATTON: Correct.
28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That's for
30 clarification. Now we're moving on to Item B, National
31 Park Service proposed rule on subsistence collections.
32 Greg.
33
34 MR. DUDGEON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
35 members. I'm not nearly as nice as having Marcy up
36 here I'm sure, but if you'll bear with me, I'll quickly
37 go over the proposed.....
38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Wait a minute now.
40
41 (Laughter)
42
43 MR. DUDGEON: There we go.
44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Continue.
46
47 MR. DUDGEON: We're doing double duty
48 today.
49
50 So this is an example of one of the

1 successes, though it took us a while to get here. The
2 Gates of the Arctic SRC came to the National Park many
3 years ago and said, we would like the ability to
4 collect the non-edible parts of animals that we're
5 harvesting or antlers or plant material, and take those
6 items, construct, make handicrafts from them, and then
7 in a small scale way be able to sell them to help
8 sustain traditional rural lifestyles, and help support
9 subsistence lifestyles.

10

11 And so it took a long while to get
12 here, but we are here. No one's saying that it's
13 perfect, but we have a proposal, and we wanted to make
14 sure we had to go over with the proposed rule with you,
15 and to see if you had any questions. It's important to
16 understand and know that the deadline for comments is
17 April 12th, and I'll be happy -- you have the
18 information in front of you, but I'll be happy again to
19 share with you how you can submit your comments or
20 recommendations, thoughts about this proposal so that
21 they'll be incorporated into that process.

22

23 So again the summary here, the National
24 Park Service, and for those of you who look at your
25 binders, I'm looking at Page 218. The summary
26 statement here is the National Park Service proposes to
27 allow qualified subsistence users to collect and use
28 non-edible fish and wildlife parts and plant materials
29 for the creation and subsequent disposition, a fancy
30 word for use, barter, or sale, of handicrafts.

31

32 In addition to that, there are a couple
33 other things that were added. The rule would also,
34 number 1, clarify that collecting or possessing living
35 wildlife is generally prohibited; and, 2, it limits the
36 type of bait that could be used to take bears for
37 subsistence uses.

38

39 So again the proposed rule here was
40 primarily, the initial part, that the use of non-edible
41 fish and wildlife parts to collect and to create
42 handicrafts for was requested by the Gates of the
43 Arctic SRC many years ago, and we're glad to have been
44 able to get this far.

45

46 A couple things I should mention. It
47 has been true since 1981 that people who meet the
48 qualified subsistence user definitions in Kobuk Valley
49 and Gates of the Arctic have been able to collect plant
50 material and create baskets and that sort of thing and

1 sell them. That's been allowed for many years. This
2 rule does not necessarily change that. They could
3 still be able to do it. There is a question in the
4 proposed rule as to whether the requirements or the
5 ability to do that should change and be incorporated
6 into this larger proposal. That's something that you
7 could think about, talk about. We could help explain.

8

9 Maybe I should stop at that moment, at
10 this point, see if there are any questions about what
11 I've already described.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

14

15 Any questions to Greg.

16

17 (No comments)

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I have one in
20 terms of picking up antlers that have been used for
21 markers within hunting areas or trapping areas by
22 residents of the Gates of the Arctic. You know, is
23 that something that has been identified with or is this
24 something that's addressing the antlers that drop off
25 caribou after they're migrating, and specific to those
26 segments of the caribou that are left and found to be
27 used for handicraft.

28

29 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. I think I
30 understand your question. If I didn't, please correct
31 me. But in this case, you could either, you because
32 you qualify as a Federally-qualified rural resident
33 could either utilize the antler from the animal you
34 harvested or utilize the antler that you found while
35 you were out harvesting.

36

37 In the proposal, however, I do need to
38 make clear that in order to be able to do so, if you
39 look at Page 219, the person doing this would have to
40 -- if you look in the third column to the right, about
41 half-way down, the proposed rule reads, in order to
42 properly manage the collection of non-edible animal
43 parts, subsistence users would be required to have
44 Federal Subsistence Board C&T for the animal species
45 whose non-edible parts would be used to make the
46 handicrafts. And the eligible persons would have to
47 have required written authorization from the
48 superintendent of the park area where the collections
49 are taking place to collect plant materials and non-
50 edible parts for this purpose.

1 Now, there's a lot of -- my
2 understanding as a park superintendent who would be
3 working with the subsistence users in the park on this,
4 is that under this language, we would have a lot of
5 room to work with folks. And what I've explained
6 already in a meeting with our SRC for Gates of the
7 Arctic, is that I would be willing to work with people
8 either individually or communities as a whole to
9 authorize this, depending on how that community or that
10 individual was interested in us working with them. I
11 can't speak for any of the other superintendents for
12 the National Park Service, but at the same time I can't
13 imagine that there wouldn't be a similar perspective.
14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
16 that. I just wanted some clarification on that,
17 because there's been some instances where antler
18 collection has cost a disturbance to areas where
19 subsistence use of these antlers are occurring as land
20 markers for trapping, and other folks that come in
21 unknowingly start taking them away and find traps on
22 them, and discard the trap and take the antlers. And
23 that created problems for some people up north. And my
24 father was one of those folks that have been involved
25 in something like this, along with Gordon's father as
26 well. And then they had to put a stop to that type of
27 activity, because there was a lot of oil and gas
28 exploration activity going on, influx of people coming
29 in started carrying out antlers out of the Slope
30 without any communications to that fact. So that's why
31 I was raising the question about if there's been any
32 communications with the communities within the Gates to
33 making sure that the antlers that they use for marking
34 areas or hunting sites or trapping sites are not being
35 disturbed by this process.
36

37 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Thank you for
38 your patience with me. I get your question, your
39 earlier question better now. Yes. In term of markers
40 for traps or areas that have some kind of family, or
41 community, or individual connection. I think this is
42 one of the -- you hit the nail right on the head. I
43 think this gives an opportunity for -- again this is
44 only available for Federally-qualified subsistence
45 users who have C&T for that specie and are a part of
46 that resident zone, a member of a resident zone
47 community for that park unit. But it's just those kind
48 of conversations that this allows for so that
49 superintendents and their staff can make clear with the
50 community or the community member that would like to

1 pursue this, about those kind of requirements, or those
2 kind of conditions. And that could be -- or would be
3 captured in a permit or an authorization so those
4 aren't disturbed.

5
6 Thank you again for making that clear
7 for me.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

10
11 Council members. I guess if this is
12 going to be an action item, so I still need to follow
13 this little card. Eva, I look to you. I'm not sure
14 where we are within this process.

15
16 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
17 This process is for the Federal subsistence proposals
18 that come before the Board. So this is -- it's an
19 action item, but it's, you know, a proposed rule that's
20 coming from the Park Service, so we won't have this
21 same process, discussion of the Council and your motion
22 and action.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So from one, jump
25 right over to No. 7, Regional Council recommendations
26 or action, questions, comments.

27
28 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

31
32 MR. G. BROWER: Well, I kept hearing
33 somewhat of an opposition to a proposed rule. I don't
34 believe it's this one. I'm not aware of it. And is
35 that what I kept hearing, some other that may have
36 opposition to this? I quite frankly haven't read
37 through it. And it sounds like something to do with
38 antlers. If it's more than that, maybe I haven't
39 understood much clearly.

40
41 But there are different types of
42 antlers, too. There are those that are dropped when
43 the hormones of the rut has taken its toll and the
44 animal's in its survival mode, and the antlers dropped
45 off naturally. And then there are those antlers that
46 we elect to use and shove them in the tundra so they
47 won't come loose, and allow it to freeze, and then it's
48 a natural animal attractant and traplines are often
49 tied to these things, immovable.

50

1 But I don't frequent the Park Service
2 lands. It's quite a ways. But I do have nephews that
3 live just in and around the Park Service lands out of
4 Anaktuvuk that subsisting over there, and would really
5 want to understand better if we were to support or
6 whatever is needing from our end of the stick over
7 here. And if you could -- because I heard some other
8 Regional Council members, different areas, maybe
9 Northwest Arctic, they didn't like this, and they were
10 talking about a proposed rule, and if this is it or
11 not.

12
13 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Member
14 Brower. I will do my best to try to answer that
15 question, and I'm going to think broadly for the
16 moment.

17
18 As I mentioned earlier, the Gates of
19 the Arctic SRC had asked for and then later the Eastern
20 Interior RAC as well I know, and there may have been
21 others, had asked for a rule such as this.

22
23 I think there might be a couple things
24 that, if you will, perhaps, and again I'm second-
25 guessing, but I want to be helpful to you in your
26 question. So what we just got done talking about, a
27 community or a person who qualifies who would want to
28 go out and collect, get antlers, or again use teeth or
29 feathers or skins or what have you, I think there was
30 -- I've heard a little bit of reluctance by some that,
31 well, why would I -- if I qualify, if I can do this,
32 why would I need to have a permit from the park
33 superintendent to do this. So that may be a little bit
34 of what you're hearing.

35
36 I know that we have some people, some
37 neighbors who live along the Upper Kobuk who have long
38 collected plant material to make baskets. I have some
39 family pictures at home on the wall with those frames.
40 And they don't want necessarily to have -- that's been
41 the case, they've been able to do that since 1981, to
42 collect plant material to do that kind of work. And
43 whether or not -- there's a question in this proposal
44 about do we leave things as is, or does that collection
45 also perhaps become part of this large proposal.
46 That's yet to be determined. So there may be a little
47 bit of that in possibly what you've heard.

48
49 And then the only other thing I can
50 imagine at this moment, in addition to the collection

1 part of this proposed rule, if you look on Page 220,
2 again it -- there were a couple things that are also
3 included, and the first is this does not allow for the
4 collection of wildlife. A long story short, as raptors
5 like falcons, people hunting with birds of prey have
6 become more popular in some places in the country,
7 there has been some interest in the State of Alaska on
8 State lands and perhaps some Federal lands, not park
9 lands, has started to allow for the capturing of live
10 birds, and the collection of their eggs to raise
11 hunting birds, raptors and other types of birds of
12 prey. This doesn't allow for the -- this makes clear
13 the collection of eggs or wild birds is not allowed.
14 It clarifies that the collecting of living wildlife,
15 including eggs and offspring is not authorized in
16 national park units in Alaska unless it's especially
17 specifically authorized otherwise.

18
19 And then the other thing that is
20 somewhat unrelated is making clarification that the use
21 of bait for taking bears under Federal subsistence
22 regulations, bait would be limited to either legally
23 taken Native fish or wildlife that's not required to be
24 salvaged under other hunting regulations, or remains of
25 Native fish or wildlife that died of natural causes.
26 And the reason for this part is to try to keep bears
27 from becoming habituated to human-sourced food.

28
29 And there are some who are saying, why
30 were these, about the not allowing the capture of birds
31 of prey and why would the use of natural baits for
32 bears be included with the handicrafts reg. So I'm
33 trying to answer your question the best I can, just by
34 giving you some of the feedback that I've heard
35 previously. Hopefully that's been helpful.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So I'm not sure if
38 you got to the question, just in terms of whether that
39 proposed rule is included within this document?

40
41 MR. DUDGEON: It is. Mr. Chair.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And if they are
44 there, why weren't they separated, like I could see
45 that Gordon.....

46
47 MR. DUDGEON: And as to why it's
48 included, it's a really good question. I think getting
49 a regulation through the Federal process takes some
50 time, effort and energy, and while I was not

1 responsible for the reg writing, I will just say that
2 these are probably a couple things that both the
3 increasing interest and the State of Alaska permitting
4 this in some places, the taking of prey, and wanting to
5 prohibit the use of human-sourced foods in the taking
6 or the baiting of bears, this was seen as perhaps as an
7 opportunity to get that done with the larger question
8 of allowing the making and selling of handicrafts from
9 the non-edible parts of wildlife.

10

11 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve.

14

15 MR. OOMITUK: Yeah. So this proposal
16 would allow, if I found an eagle wings or raven wings,
17 you know, that if the animals died naturally, I would
18 be able to collect them and make arts and crafts out of
19 them and sell them without getting in trouble?

20

21 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Essentially
22 that's correct as long as, number 1, you're a
23 Federally-qualified rural resident with C&T for that
24 specie; (2) you have an authorization with the park
25 unit superintendent; and there isn't any other wildlife
26 law or provision that would prohibit the use of that
27 particular animal part of what have you.

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

30

31 MR. G. BROWER: Don't you think there's
32 just layers upon layers of approvals here? I mean, you
33 get a C&T. Well, you've got to get a C&T, then you go
34 back and you go see you, and then say, well, I need to
35 get some feathers. You know, there might be some
36 floating around, and it would take me three drums of
37 gas by the way to search all around for it, and then
38 you've got to give me a permit for that now, even
39 though I've got a C&T to it. Is that what I'm hearing?

40

41 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. I guess the
42 question is so if a person thinks they may want to use
43 or collect non-edible wildlife parts for making
44 handicrafts, there is a layer there, and that layer
45 would be to have the authorization from the park
46 superintendent to do that. But it wouldn't be on a
47 case-by-case, hunt-by-hunt, trip-by-trip kind of
48 opportunity. As I described to the SRC members for
49 Gates of the Arctic, my intention, in this rule becomes
50 law, if this proposed rule were to become law, to work

1 with either the individuals or communities and do like
2 a five-year permit or authorization for the interested
3 party. And the conditions and such might include, as
4 the Chair described, making sure that people's
5 landmarks or their trail markers or their trapping
6 markers aren't molested. But those would be things
7 that we would make clear between the manager and the
8 person getting, or the community getting the permit.
9 And then I think it would be pretty much that parts
10 done.

11
12 MR. G. BROWER: Just one follow up
13 observation and question probably. You know, the
14 National Park Service belongs to everybody, right? To
15 the rest of the world it's the National Park Service in
16 the United States of America. And under ANILCA we have
17 certain rights that you're obligated to uphold, right,
18 within the National Park Service lands, and leave it at
19 that. I think these -- whoever needs -- the person
20 that needs a permit is you to go in there and go pick
21 up that antler, because you don't have a C&T. Wouldn't
22 that be the case in this? It's the others that need to
23 have the permission, not the guys that are -- that have
24 lived and have a customary and traditional use
25 determination to these Park Service lands. It just
26 seems like it's the reverse here. And the guys that
27 have C&T are the ones that are going to be shoving
28 these antlers down in the tundra to say, I'm going to
29 come back in the wintertime and set my trapline up.
30 It's the other guys that don't have a C&T, that says
31 it's beautiful, and I'm bringing 15 other people to go
32 see the beauty of Park Service lands and, wow, look at
33 all these antlers. I'm going to take one home, you
34 know. It seems like those are the people that needs to
35 have the controls. The ones that have C&T should be,
36 that's it. You should have a C&T and do the
37 traditional things you're used to doing under the C&T.
38 And that would be my observation.

39
40 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair and Mr. Brower.
41 I certainly understand your frustration, and I think
42 that's actually what led to this proposal, because the
43 National Park Service regulations that apply Service
44 wide, Lower 48 as well as in Alaska, essentially makes
45 it illegal for anybody to walk out with an antler or a
46 part of the -- a hard part, a non-edible part of an
47 animal that was harvested legally. And so the Gates of
48 the Arctic SRC said, you know, this is a tradition that
49 rural people have, that they make use of these
50 feathers, these bones, these teeth, and want to

1 continue to do it, but want to do it legally. So how
2 can we do it legally? And over the years this is
3 essentially -- this proposed language is what
4 transpired. And so just to be clear, and I apologize
5 if I wasn't, this would only be allowed to those
6 residents of resident zone communities, Federally-
7 qualified rural Alaskans. This would not apply, and
8 would not enable anybody from outside of those resident
9 zone communities of a national park unit in Alaska to
10 collect or to manufacture handicrafts for use, sale, or
11 barter. So again just to be clear, right now the law
12 doesn't require -- or the law doesn't allow for this.
13 So regulations to allow it is required, and that's why
14 the Gates of the Arctic SRC came to the park and said,
15 fix this, so we can do this.

16

17 And then the decision was not just to
18 fix it for Gates of the Arctic, but to try to fix it
19 for rural residents throughout Alaska that are resident
20 zone community members of national park units. So
21 that's why this proposal was created. And the process
22 got us to the language that you see, the proposed
23 language of the -- or the language of the proposed
24 regulation that you have in front of you today. I
25 hope that helps clarify your question, concern.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve.

28

29 MR. OOMITUK: So if this was supposed
30 to be passed for this permit, what is it going to --
31 would we have to pay for it?

32

33 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. Members. No,
34 there's no cost. What this would do is essentially
35 make lawful actions and activities that have been going
36 on for a long while, and would help -- or would allow
37 people who would like to have done this, and who
38 haven't, because they know the law doesn't allow for it
39 now, regulations don't allow for it now. So it would a
40 no cost authorization that you would receive if you're
41 utilizing a national park area to hunt, to harvest and
42 we'd like to do this. It would be an agreement between
43 you and the park manager.

44

45 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

48

49 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I don't mean to,
50 you know, beat this down, and I'm sure you've got your

1 reasons and whatnot, but it seems to me that you could
2 go about it a different way, and instead of requiring
3 any more than a C&T, maybe your regulations should be
4 reflect that you must have C&T for this, and that is
5 the methodology. Tweak your regulation to -- instead
6 of create a new one. And I don't know if I'm getting
7 across here. I just don't see the need, because if
8 you've got a C&T, it's already allowed under -- if you
9 have customary and traditional use determination, and
10 it's just infringing more and more, saying, oh, it's
11 not legally allowed, because there's no means of making
12 it available other than we need to write you an
13 authorization to do it. It seems to me you can change
14 some of that language and make it simpler, and regulate
15 the other folks that are most likely to do that, the
16 non-C&T folks.

17
18 MR. DUDGEON: Well, again I appreciate
19 your perspective, and maybe even there's a little
20 underlying frustration with the process there. Park
21 Service regulations don't allow for -- and again I'm
22 talking about all 409 units of the National Park
23 Service, of which Gates of the Arctic is one. Park
24 Service regulations don't allow, with the exception of
25 maybe unoccupied shells or small amounts of berries or
26 what have you, for things of that nature to be taken
27 out of the park. Now, Alaska is different with ANILCA,
28 as we all know, and the subsistence opportunities and
29 the sporthunting opportunities, general hunting
30 opportunities. What this proposed regulation would do
31 it make it lawful for people living in rural Alaska
32 with C&T for those animals they're harvesting already,
33 or find shed animal -- or shed parts, or parts from a
34 deceased animal as the question earlier was asked about
35 a bird, to be utilized -- to be collected, taken out of
36 the park, made into a handicraft for barter or for sale
37 or for use. So this is a way of allowing an exception.
38 I think getting to what you were saying, it's kind of
39 like I think we're both looking at the same aim,
40 wanting to get the same product, but the process we
41 have to use to get there is to exempt qualified rural
42 residents of Alaska from Federal law so they can do
43 this.

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: You know, I have
46 just my observations in this, and it's something I
47 guess there needs to be some clarifying language added
48 to this document in terms of how to move forward,
49 because it seems that you've put two items within one
50 proposal to be acted on, whether we support it or not.

1 There's one on the original intent is to allow the use
2 of subsistence collections of materials, antlers,
3 horns, whatever, identified within that. And then the
4 second part of it, it's limit the types of bait that
5 maybe used to take bears for subsistence use.

6
7 And that's compounded right into the
8 discussion point. I don't think that's right in a
9 sense to submit a proposal that's two separate issues
10 you're dealing with in terms of what's being asked
11 within the proposal. It's compounding two different
12 things. Limit the types of bait that may be used for
13 taking bears, and this one reads the National Park
14 Service proposed to allow subsistence users to collect
15 and use non-edible fish and wildlife parts and plant
16 materials for creation of subsequent disposition, use,
17 barter, or sale of handicrafts. So those are two
18 separate issues we're dealing with and National Park is
19 asking that we adopt this in one action. I don't think
20 that's right in my opinion. So, you know, unless
21 there's a separation of the two, I don't even want to
22 take any action on this.

23
24 And I'm not sure in terms of how you
25 clarify the ANILCA, the subsistence use authorization
26 by ANILCA under supplementary information on the
27 background. Subsistence uses authorized by ANILCA. In
28 1980 Congress enacted National Interest Lands
29 Conservation Act, ANILCA to reserve various national
30 significant areas in Alaska. One of the purposes of
31 ANILCA is to provide an opportunity for rural residents
32 engaged in subsistence way of life to continue to do
33 so. How is that not clear enough to the National Park
34 Service when we're already protected under ANILCA to do
35 that. I think it's the other user that within the
36 Gates that need to be subjected to what's being asked
37 of this, as what Mr. Brower is indicating, that we
38 shouldn't be the ones trying to apply for a permit to
39 use the resources that we've been using for millennia
40 in a sense. And it seems to be compounding a rule by
41 National Park Service, seem to me to make it more
42 restrictive in a sense when it shouldn't be.

43
44 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. I would --
45 just again, because I want to make sure, and I
46 understand what you're saying, what other members have
47 been saying. I just want to make sure that I am as
48 clear for you as I can be, and then your comments or
49 recommendations to the proposal are that way, exactly
50 what you want them to be. And I don't want it to be

1 for a lack of clarity. I do hear -- from what I've
2 described. So again I just want to make sure that you
3 understand, if you look at Page 219, at the top of the
4 third column, it reads, the proposed rule, this part of
5 proposed rules would implement the selected action
6 identified in the finding of no significant impact when
7 applied to all national park units in Alaska for
8 subsistence users uses by local rural residents or
9 authorized by ANILCA, just as you were describing. The
10 rule would allow National Park Service-qualified local
11 rural residents to collect and use the following items
12 to make and sell handicrafts. Plant materials, and
13 non-edible animal parts, including antlers, horns,
14 bones, teeth, claws, hooves, skins, hides, fur, hair,
15 feathers or quills that are naturally shed or
16 discarded, lawfully taken, or that remain on the
17 landscape due to the natural mortality of the animal.

18
19 So that was the primary driver, the
20 primary question. The primary request of the SRC for
21 Gates of the Arctic is how can we legally do these
22 things. And as you have just again said, and we've
23 been talking about, that is part of, but not all of the
24 proposal. The second -- actually the two other parts
25 of the proposal, the collection of life wildlife, in
26 this proposal it makes it clear that that is not going
27 to be authorized, which I was describing, the taking of
28 wild birds, for example. And then the third part,
29 which you just described, the use of bait for taking of
30 bears for Federal subsistence use would be limited to
31 native fish or wildlife.

32
33 And so I just want to make sure I'm
34 clear as to what the proposed rule is about, that I can
35 answer your questions as best I can, and encourage you
36 either individually and/or as a group to comment just
37 as you are now for the official record.

38
39 Thank you.

40
41 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

42
43 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Mr. Chair. Go
44 ahead.

45
46 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. I hope, you
47 know, everything that we've been saying is already
48 recorded and it's a matter of record, right? And, you
49 know, I don't support this just from listening to you.
50 It's to me, because I'm Native. It's just like because

1 I'm Black is what it amounts to. And we have rights,
2 and they're given under ANILCA, and you're supposed to
3 recognize that, not make it difficult to recognize it,
4 or make it legal again. I think it already exists.
5 These regulations that you're talking about, I think
6 they're sorely needed for those that don't have a
7 customary and traditional use determination. For the
8 others that are going to need to take it home to
9 Montana and hang it up on the wall, or some other
10 place. For us, we've already been told we have a use,
11 a traditional use. I could make a fish spear out of
12 the antlers that I found, provided I didn't interrupt
13 somebody's trapline.

14

15 And those would be my comments.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Gordon.

18

19 Rosemary.

20

21 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Just to clarify. So
22 our traditional way of utilizing baleen to use in baits
23 to help us with the harvesting of a bear would be
24 illegal? So our traditional way of life of doing that
25 practice would be illegal with this passing.

26

27 MR. DUDGEON: To answer the question,
28 what this would say is that the bait that you could use
29 would be limited to natural occurring bait, and not
30 things like donuts or dog food or human-sourced food
31 would not be allowed, but naturally occurring bait,
32 wildlife parts that weren't consumable or aren't
33 required to be harvested, could be used.

34

35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then the other
36 communication is on Page 219, it says eligible persons
37 would be required to have written authorization from
38 the superintendent to collect plant material or non-
39 edible animal parts with appropriate terms and
40 conditions to protect resource areas and values. So we
41 would have to get a written authorization to go in and
42 be our traditional way of life.

43

44 MR. DUDGEON: If you wanted to make
45 handicrafts with those items and then use, trade,
46 barter or sell them, yes.

47

48 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: And then thirdly,
49 part of this discussion is coming because other areas
50 are having increased competition for things that are

1 within parks that are creating concerns over the
2 reality of maintaining vitality of these different
3 resources in areas, like for us one of the big concerns
4 is that on road areas collecting of the berries is
5 becoming very high competition, but also medicinal
6 plants are becoming very highly competitive in
7 collecting. So is this trying to give some protections
8 to these resources within the parks area?

9

10 MR. DUDGEON: I would answer that no,
11 because if this rule or something similar were to pass,
12 it would not allow the collection by people living
13 outside. This is intended only for rural Alaskans who
14 meet the qualifications so that they could do this
15 legally. So it's not a resource protection -- now,
16 this is my interpretation. This is not a resource
17 protection regulation. This is a regulation to make
18 lawful and allowable what people have been saying they
19 want to do, as we've been hearing, and have been doing,
20 as we've heard in the testimony thus far. Does that
21 help answer your question?

22

23 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: It gives the answer
24 that you're willing to give in the process, but it
25 gives me much more concern as a person who has
26 historical usage in doing these kinds of things on
27 staying legal within increased requirements for
28 documentation to say that I'm legal. We're facing this
29 issue right now on the Dalton Highway. When we go to
30 Prudhoe Bay, we're racially profiled as Native
31 residents and have to go additional security checks.
32 So I'm very concerned just as in the Dalton Highway
33 they said we would not have restrictions to traditional
34 and cultural access on that Dalton Highway, but now
35 we're singled out, racially profiled, and going through
36 additional security measures, that this is going to be
37 a similar reaction that occurs. It's an intent for you
38 to make us legal, but the reality is, there's a legal
39 documentation process that each and every one of us
40 that go into this area to do our traditional way of
41 life now have to take on responsibility for
42 documentation, and that's much more concerning, because
43 of the reality that words do not follow us in our
44 backpacks when we're going out and doing our
45 traditional harvesting. You're requiring us to go out
46 and take additional steps to be who and what we are in
47 our lands and waters. And so this is much more
48 concerning.

49

50 It does help to get some of the

1 clarifications around the bait issue, but I also
2 believe that we're going to have to do a lot more
3 education to those that are coming in, and reading this
4 regulation to understand who and what we are, and come
5 out and start an enforcement process that is likely to
6 follow down the road. And that's going to be a
7 requirement upon us to constantly educate whoever you
8 all put into this process. But like we have been
9 living in the North Slope for 30 years, traveling
10 through the Dalton Highway, we're still educating them
11 that it's legal for us to go through the Dalton Highway
12 regardless of additional regulatory requirements that
13 now make us go through extra delays to travel across
14 our lands and waters.

15
16 MR. DUDGEON: I understand that, or at
17 least a part of that. I wasn't fully aware of the
18 Dalton issue that you brought up. However, I would
19 have to bring up again what I mentioned earlier about
20 people on the Upper Kobuk, and the fact that they've
21 had a regulation in place that allowed them to do this
22 lawfully again since 1981. And you certainly wouldn't
23 have to take my word for it, but I would suggest or
24 recommend perhaps in visiting with some of the members
25 of those communities that participate, that do this,
26 that sell their handicrafts, my sense is it's works
27 really well, and this is a way to help expand that to
28 other users and other items that can be used for
29 handicraft making and sales. So perhaps I'm looking at
30 a smaller aperture, different optics than what you're
31 describing, that would be my sense. And that's the
32 motive here.

33
34 Thank you.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm just trying to
37 think in terms of how we interpret and perceive
38 communications. And having not too much of that
39 opportunity to discuss this proposal, or the proposed
40 rule, or even had any questions to any of our
41 anthropologists in terms of how they interpret or
42 perceive this rule, proposed rule, you know, I'm
43 reluctant to take any action on this.

44
45 And when you're referencing other
46 documents as you did earlier -- I'm trying to identify
47 what the significant impact of F-O-N-S-I, I was trying
48 to find where that starts, and it's something regarding
49 some kind of finding. I read through it just very
50 briefly as we were discussing these things. But do you

1 happen to understand what that acronym means? F-O-N-S-
2 I.

3

4 MR. G. BROWER: Finding of no
5 significant impact.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. There we
8 go. Yeah. Thank you, Gordon.

9

10 You know, how do we demonstrate that
11 communications.

12

13 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. If that's a
14 question for me?

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes.

17

18 MR. DUDGEON: A finding of no
19 significant impact is part of the NEPA, or the environ
20 -- there was an environmental analysis done on this and
21 that the National Park Service could go forward with
22 this proposal as written without being detrimental to
23 the natural and cultural resources it's charged by
24 Congress to protect.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And in regard to
27 that assessment who's involved? Who are the persons
28 involved in that NEPA process to demonstrate of that
29 acronym?

30

31 MR. DUDGEON: Mr. Chair. That would be
32 the National Park Service Staff here in Alaska who
33 conducted the EA. And as you can imagine, there were
34 people outside of Alaska, and some within Alaska, too,
35 but they think of national parks as being kind of
36 outdoor living museums. And the idea that anybody
37 would be able to go in and take things out is not
38 within the mind set if you will of some people,
39 particularly who have -- know of national parks, the
40 model in the Lower 48. We know that's not the case
41 here in Alaska again because of ANILCA and the laws
42 that helped establish these conservation units in
43 Alaska in 1980. So the environmental assessment, this
44 FONSI as it's called, the acronym you were describing,
45 essentially said that if this regulation -- or if this
46 proposed rule became law, it could be enacted by the
47 National Park Service in Alaska, and it would not be,
48 in so many words, detrimental to what the National Park
49 Service is charged to do by Congress in national park
50 units up here. That we could allow for this collection

1 and the making of handicraft, and the bartering and the
2 sale.

3

4 I hope I answered your question with
5 that.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
8 that. I'm just trying to get a better understanding of
9 how to proceed forward on this when, like I said, we
10 have not had any real clear communications to the facts
11 and hadn't heard any representation from the
12 Subsistence Resource Commission to these discussion
13 points. I think it's kind of in my mind premature to
14 try to take action without any real clear insight on --
15 and having no communication from our other constituents
16 as well. You know, we've had other representatives
17 brought down from the Subsistence Resource Commission
18 that could have provided some comments to this, and
19 we've not had that opportunity to provide that
20 communications.

21

22 MR. DUDGEON: Well, again, Mr. Chair,
23 this is open for all the public as well as this body to
24 make comments on the proposed rule. It's not my rule,
25 but because I'm responsible for Gates of the Arctic, I
26 wanted to make sure that those communities and
27 committee members that have an opportunity to weigh in
28 as individuals or as groups, organizations, understand
29 what's being proposed, and to make the very valid and
30 heartfelt comments you're making, of course, they're
31 part of this record, but I wanted to encourage you,
32 once again, make sure that you were aware of this; (2)
33 to try to help explain it best I could; and then (3)
34 ensure that you as individuals as well as this body and
35 the public has an opportunity to weigh in on and make
36 the thoughts known on the proposed rule.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe just a
39 question to Eva in regard to this. Has there been any
40 consultation with tribes and the ANCSA corporations
41 regarding this document.

42

43 MR. DUDGEON: There have been actually,
44 Mr. Chair. And while I don't have in front of me the
45 number of meetings and conversations and the
46 government-to-government consultation that's taken
47 place up to now, it's been a many-year process.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. And the
50 responses generated from those consultations.

1 MR. DUDGEON: Probably all over the
2 board, and probably very similar to some of the things
3 we've heard today, and some supportive. I know in the
4 last conversation that I had with a similar group was
5 the Gates of the Arctic SRC last month about the
6 proposed rule and the language, and there is certainly
7 some support, particularly I think because this was
8 sourced out of Gates of the Arctic SRC many, many years
9 ago. I think as a whole I would be accurate in saying
10 that the concept is certainly supported, but that some
11 of the questions that you brought up today are probably
12 similar to what some of the members of the SRC have,
13 too.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Uh-huh. And in
16 following up with that in regard to our key
17 communities, Anaktuvuk Pass, within the Gates of the
18 Arctic, and what kind of communications or comments
19 have been generated through that consultation or
20 explanation to the constituents there.

21
22 MR. DUDGEON: Again if I can just
23 generalize, I think people for the most part are
24 interested in being able to utilize parts of the animal
25 that maybe they've not lawfully been able to do before
26 in handicrafts, what have you. So I think there's been
27 a lot of support for the idea of being able to fully
28 utilize an animal or the resource. I think that in the
29 application of that, some of the things that you've
30 brought up today, whether it's getting the
31 authorization or the relationship that people have with
32 managers such as myself, that having to essentially
33 have a permit, I think there was certainly some
34 reluctance as far as why, as one of the members here
35 said earlier, why would we need a permit. So support
36 for the concept, maybe less support for the
37 application.

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm not sure if I
40 clearly stated my comment in regard to maybe how some
41 of our constituents may have commented to this proposed
42 rule from Anaktuvuk Pass. The residents of Anaktuvuk
43 Pass. Have they been consulted with, and what kind of
44 communications generated from that if there was a
45 consultation process through them. With them.

46
47 MR. DUDGEON: Well, we've met with the
48 different governing bodies and the tribe in Anaktuvuk
49 Pass. And Mr. Nageak, who was actually here a little
50 while ago, was, of course, a member of the SRC when

1 these discussions were ensuing, too. So again just to
2 generalize pretty much what I said earlier, I think the
3 general concept has met a lot of support. I think the
4 specifics of how it would be implemented, there have
5 been some -- there's been some support, but I think
6 also again there has been quite a bit of conversation
7 about, well, of we have C&T and we've been doing this,
8 why would we need to get a permit to do it.

9

10 Does that help?

11

12 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Gordon.

15

16 MR. G. BROWER: Maybe it would be wise
17 to get an opinion maybe from OSM, a written opinion. I
18 kind of like the class that we had yesterday on the
19 break-out session on ANILCA. The guy seemed to be
20 pretty smart, and know all the ins and out about the
21 law. And see if ANILCA provides for what you're trying
22 to re-allow and reaffirm by permitting it. It seems to
23 me that it's already going on, and it's allowed, and we
24 have C&T. I just don't see the rationale behind this.
25 It's almost singling groups -- you know, a group that's
26 already been authorized, you know. That's my take on
27 it. And I'm not an expert.

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So a request for a
30 solicitor's opinion on that in terms of who -- who were
31 the presenters in the work-out session the.....

32

33 MR. G. BROWER: Solicitor.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes. Eva.

38

39 MS. PATTON: That was Ken Lord who is
40 the solicitor for the Office of Subsistence Management.
41 There are some differences under ANILCA on Federal
42 lands and hard park lands. And I can't speak to those
43 differences, but this regulation falls under these hard
44 park lands. So there are differences under ANILCA
45 between say BLM lands or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
46 lands and the Park Service, and that's where -- that's
47 what this proposal is trying to resolve some of those
48 restrictions.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So that's why I

1 was requesting maybe a solicitor's opinion in a written
2 form would be helpful to help generate further dialogue
3 on the discussion point. Because like I stated, I see
4 two different issues trying to be addressed in one
5 proposal, proposed rule. And that's one issue. Is
6 that something that's doable, because I mean I don't
7 know if we've seen something of that nature before
8 through this Council specific to National Park Service.

9

10 Pat.

11

12 MS. PETRIVELLI: I just want to make a
13 comment. I missed the session on ANILCA yesterday, but
14 I know one proposal that we're dealing with this
15 session, and it's the snowmachine use to go -- and so
16 Northwest Arctic put in that proposal to allow it, and
17 one of the Staff Committee's comments will be that
18 ANILCA provide a priority for subsistence uses, but in
19 sections of ANILCA it says it does not override other
20 agency commitments by law. And I'm sure that's what
21 the Park Service is doing, that they have national
22 regulations that are present on their lands, and then
23 sometimes they make Alaska exceptions, and I think
24 that's what this effort is to do is to make an Alaska
25 exception to a national regulation. And so that could
26 be why they lumped it together.

27

28 Now, my opinion is why didn't they put
29 the snowmachine use in, but I mean I wasn't here when
30 they were preparing the proposed rule, it seems like it
31 took them quite a few years even to get this package
32 together, and it might take them quite a few more years
33 to get the package about snow machine use on Park
34 Service lands.

35

36 But Congress did give a priority on
37 Federal public lands, but they said the agency has
38 obligations under other laws though that will override
39 ANILCA. And I forget what section it is, but it's
40 later, in the back. But I think that Park Service is
41 trying to do this process, and I asked Greg when the
42 deadline for the comment on this process is, and it's
43 April 12th. So if you as a Council want to have input
44 into this process, you would have to submit your
45 comments now, because the deadline is April 12th.

46

47 And, of course, my thing about, you
48 know, the idea of written authorization, I don't know
49 if -- I mean, because like I think Greg might be able
50 to be real flexible about what written authorization

1 is, and tell his law enforcement people. You know,
2 maybe there's a list in the village or something, you
3 know, rather than having to carry another piece of
4 paper. But I'm not sure how that gets worked out.

5
6 And then we're dependent upon every
7 superintendent that comes. But, you know, just the
8 idea is could the Council make a comment that -- and I
9 think that's the rub, is carrying around another piece
10 of paper, you know. And just to do something you've
11 always done. But I don't know if you would want,
12 because I think besides the two issues in one thing,
13 but if you want to comment on encouraging the Park
14 Service to be as flexible as possible in the form of
15 that written authorization, because ANILCA does say to
16 not cause undue hardship on the subsistence user. So
17 if you could put in that language in your comment, that
18 you think that the least -- I mean, ways that would be
19 the least undue hardship for the subsistence user.

20
21 And that's all I've got to say.

22
23 MR. DUDGEON: And I'll say amen.

24
25 (Laughter)

26
27 MR. G. BROWER: Mr. Chair.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
30 that, Pat.

31
32 Gordon.

33
34 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, it's good to
35 hear. And during the ANILCA break-out session, there
36 was a little clause there. And the solicitor that was
37 describing that, maybe had meant it for these types of
38 things for monuments and other things like that. But
39 what the monuments says is also critical. I think we
40 need to see what the National Park Service in Alaska
41 has in store for its original people, or those that
42 have C&T in there. Is it something in there that's a
43 miss that we're not aware of. Other than that, it
44 seems to me it's just a burden.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
47 that, Gordon.

48
49 Any other comment.

50

1 (No comments)

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Concerns.

4

5 (No comments)

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: What about the
8 separation of the two subjects here within the proposed
9 rule? Is there a means of separating the two or is it
10 just that we can't do that, and this is something that
11 we have to act on just as it is.

12

13 MR. DUDGEON: My own response to that,
14 Mr. Chair, would be to propose that, or to make that
15 recommendation or that suggestion. There may be some
16 real concern about having these things as -- I think
17 you used, or one of the members used the word lumped
18 together. And so making that statement in your
19 response I think would be valid.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you.

22

23 MR. G. BROWER: Well, Mr. Chair.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

26

27 MR. G. BROWER: Are we looking for some
28 sort of response to the proposal for National Park
29 Service?

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's an action
32 item, yes.

33

34 MR. G. BROWER: And I know there's a
35 couple of people that could wordsmith some sort of a
36 motion, like Rosemary or Bob, but if I wordsmith
37 something like this, I'm going to -- I'm not going to
38 be friendly.

39

40 Mr. Chair. And I would also, you know,
41 from what Pat was saying about not overly, what was it,
42 burdensome or a hardship, undue hardship to those users
43 that have C&T.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Rosemary.

46

47 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I think that it's
48 good that we have received this, but I also think that
49 we have some homework to do with it, so it's not
50 appropriate to try to come up with a rapid action on

1 this. It is something that has repercussions to all of
2 our users that enter into the Park Service lands. And
3 we want to make sure that we come up with wording that
4 is going to be appropriate that we're all going to get
5 along with, and that we hold up to being as strong as
6 we can, for us to be our traditional way of life in our
7 lands and waters, and recognize there are others that
8 make recommendations that it shouldn't be undue. And
9 this process is making it harder on us. And we would
10 be the ones at risk being out in the Park Service lands
11 doing our traditional way of life, having to hold up an
12 additional documentation. That's burdens put on us,
13 and I don't want to see that happen to us.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Further discussion
16 on this subject.

17

18 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah. Mr. Chair.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

21

22 MR. G. BROWER: I would, and you don't
23 have to second it or anything, but I would move to
24 table this until such time that we get additional
25 information regarding the protections that the National
26 Park Service has for the residents that use the Park
27 Service lands on top of an opinion on that C&T
28 determination through ANILCA.

29

30 I mean, this is the first time I'm
31 reading this, and have, you know, reservations on its
32 applicability, but recognizing there may be, you know,
33 a loophole here that needs to be shut. But worried
34 about the undue hardship we may be posing on our own
35 residents that utilize these areas without that
36 knowledge.

37

38 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

39

40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Steve. Sorry. Go
41 ahead.

42

43 MR. OOMITUK: With that said, if that's
44 a motion, I second that motion that we table this until
45 we get a better understanding.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We have a motion
48 on the floor and seconded to table to take action on
49 the proposed rule, National Park Service proposed rule
50 on subsistence collection. Further discussion.

1 (No comments)
2
3 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: If there's no
4 further discussion, call for the question on the
5 motion.
6
7 MR. OOMITUK: Question called for.
8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: The question's
10 been called on the motion to table to take action on
11 NPS proposed rule on subsistence collection. All in
12 favor of the motion signify by saying aye.
13
14 IN UNISON: Aye.
15
16 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.
17
18 (No opposing votes)
19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
21 you. So the Regional Advisory Council has tabled to
22 take action on proposed rule.
23
24 Thank you, Greg, for your presentation.
25
26 MR. DUDGEON: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and
27 thank you, members. I appreciate the heartfelt
28 conversation.
29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Oh, yes, my heart
31 can labor.
32
33 (Laughter)
34
35 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair. I just want
36 to say something. You're still our friend.
37
38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Steve.
39
40 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
41 May I also just clarify that the deadline to comment
42 was April 12th. And so if the Council wanted to take
43 action on this, the Council would need to convene
44 another meeting in advance of that time in order to
45 make recommendations formally, and to develop a formal
46 letter.
47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I was just going
49 to ask about our scheduling. This is our final day for
50 our meeting, or do we have another time frame for like

1 for tomorrow morning.

2

3 MS. PATTON: So to meet formally as a
4 Council, this is the Council's primary meeting was
5 today. And the opportunity to take action as a
6 Council. We also have the FRMP priorities, and support
7 of -- review of the annual report. Those are actions
8 for the Council as a group. Or as a Council.

9

10 Tomorrow -- the caribou session is not
11 a formal Council meeting, so it's not an opportunity to
12 make formal recommendations on the record. They're
13 seeking feedback, and that feedback is very important.

14

15 The next opportunity for the Council to
16 meet formally is scheduled for tomorrow afternoon, and
17 that was a joint meeting with Northwest Arctic. And
18 the two topics that were scheduled for that meeting for
19 joint Council action was addressing the proposal on use
20 of snowmachines within the park, and then also the
21 Northwest Arctic's special action request. So those
22 were the primary things.

23

24 There's a couple things that have just
25 come up today that the Council could review on that
26 day, too. And one is a summary letter of the
27 recommendations of all the Councils in the joint
28 meeting, that they're seeking support for all the
29 Councils. And the other is that the YK-Delta Council
30 had made a resolution they were interested in other
31 Council support on their position on the Refuge's
32 proposed rule, which is different than this. And the
33 Council has not had an update on that proposed rule.
34 So I'm not sure there's time to squeeze in much more.

35

36 And that occurs at 1:30 and 3:45 in the
37 afternoon on Friday, that joint meeting. So it's the
38 tail end of the week, and some people will be taking
39 off. I believe your flight was at five. So it's a
40 tight schedule for this week.

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So the reason I
43 was asking, because it's 5:30 -- beyond 5:30 now, and
44 we're just getting into some of the action items, and I
45 would like to know what the Council's wishes at this
46 time. Again, we've had a full lengthy agenda, and
47 trying to cover all those items seem to be a very long
48 discussions we seem to have on these subjects. And I'm
49 lost. I need to find my agenda. I must be getting
50 close. Okay. And we have several more agenda items to

1 cover yet, and like I said, it's 5:30 in the evening.
2 We've had a pretty full day already. And I'd like to
3 know what the wish of the Council is at this time.

4
5 (Indiscernible - away from microphones)

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: It's on N-2, N-1.

8
9 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.

12
13 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
14 don't know if it's helpful. The FRMP proposal, because
15 it's an interest for the Council to have more time to
16 discuss the fisheries priority information needs, and
17 really fully develop those, Karen was going to talk
18 with the Council about the call for -- or the
19 development of those priority information needs, and
20 discuss the formation of a subcommittee so that the
21 Council can continue that work as a subgroup and be
22 authorized to do that. So that would allow time for
23 the Council to in-depth work that's ongoing to develop
24 those recommendations. And I know Sam was interested
25 in speaking on that, too, so that would allow us to
26 being Sam in as part of that subcommittee. So that may
27 be a short update, and then a formal motion to make a
28 subcommittee to do more in-depth work, if the Council
29 was interested in approaching it that way. And then
30 the review of the annual report are the final action
31 items.

32
33 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: What's the wish of
34 the Council. Bob.

35
36 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I was thinking
37 in the interest of time that's remaining on our agenda,
38 how much time do we have on this room tonight? How
39 long can we continue this evening?

40
41 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council. I
42 think we can be here this evening until the Council
43 concludes. They close the doors to letting people in,
44 but they'll let you out, so I don't think we have a
45 time restriction. Are you available?

46
47 REPORTER: (Indiscernible - away from
48 microphones)

49
50 (Laughter)

1 MS. PATTON: Yeah. So, yeah, my
2 understanding -- because we've been here quite late
3 setting up, so nobody's kicked us out. We're here
4 until late to change over the rooms for the sessions
5 tomorrow, too. So as the Council wishes.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Robert.

8
9 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I was
10 wondering if we could table the rest of the old
11 business items until our next meeting and move on to
12 new business.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Recommendation to
15 table the remaining old business and start on the new.
16 Council. All concur. So we'll start on the new
17 business. On Page N.S. 2, new business. Call for
18 Federal fish and shellfish regulatory proposals. OSM
19 fisheries. For the record.

20
21 MS. HYER: Mr. Chairman, Council
22 members. My name is Karen Hyer. I'm a fisheries
23 biologist with OSM, and it's always a pleasure to meet
24 with you.

25
26 So in the interest of time, I am going
27 to make this short and sweet. We have some old
28 business to circle around for. We had an issue with a
29 project at Chandler, which Bob was aware of, because he
30 was at that meeting. I have Brendan here if anybody
31 has any questions about it. There was a concern with
32 when they were sampling the caribou migration. So
33 Sport Fish has rearranged their sampling time to not to
34 be in the area when the caribou are there. Brendan's
35 doing to be here, so if there are follow-up questions,
36 you can either address them now, or you can address him
37 later, because he will be here. So if there are no
38 questions I'll move right on to Page.....

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any questions to
41 Karen.

42
43 (No comments)

44
45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Go ahead.

46
47 MS. HYER: Okay. So everybody turn to
48 Page 225, because we have a call for Federal
49 subsistence fish and shellfish regulations. The
50 opportunity to submit proposals is now. These

1 proposals will take effect for the period of April 2017
2 through March of 2019. If the Council has any concerns
3 or wants any proposals developed, you can work through
4 Eva, and she will contact me, and we can develop those.
5 Those don't need to be developed on the record. So if
6 there's nothing pressing, we can move through that and
7 on to the FRMP.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Did we have any
10 salmon issues? 205 you said.

11

12 MS. HYER: 225.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: 225.

15

16 MS. HYER: And it's more than salmon.
17 It's all fish and shellfish.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I misunderstood,
20 and that's why I'm asking for the bate number. I was
21 reading 205.

22

23 MS. HYER: Yeah, 225.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: In-season Yukon
26 River salmon. 225 is where we want to be.

27

28 Thank you.

29

30 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.

33

34 MR. SHEARS: I don't have any proposals
35 to offer for Federal subsistence fish and shellfish
36 regulation changes.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Do not have a
39 proposal at this time. Questions, comments, Council
40 members. Rosemary.

41

42 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: The only concern
43 that comes up to mind is we've had some incidences with
44 algae blooms, and is that something that we are
45 including as part of assessments. Right now it's come
46 and gone, but we run the risks in the future of having
47 additional concerns about that. Do we have anything
48 that's addressing that concern yet.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I haven't heard

1 anything.

2

3 MS. HYER: No.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think most of
6 the algae issues have been down in the southern part,
7 California and up into near Washington State. But in
8 regard to Alaska algae blooms, I've not heard, unless
9 there's something that I missed over the course of the
10 summer.

11

12 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I know a couple of
13 years ago we had a big algae bloom that came and went.
14 But it is something that is increasing in frequency
15 throughout the state. We've had some incidents further
16 south with the paralytic shellfish. And we haven't
17 assessed to see whether or not with the changes in the
18 water quality issues that are coming up with the
19 acidification, is this something that is coming up to
20 be concerned. Do we have anything that is getting us a
21 starting point so that we can prepare in case there is
22 continued concerns.

23

24 MS. HYER: I don't know of anything up
25 north. Oh, Brendan. Oh, yeah, good old Brendan. Come
26 on up here and tell us what's going on.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm sorry, I can't
29 remember all the names. Brendan, introduce yourself.

30

31 MR. SCANLON: That's all right. Thank
32 you, Mr. Chairman. Brendan Scanlon, Department of Fish
33 and Game, based out of Fairbanks.

34

35 Two years ago on the Kobuk River there
36 was a very large chum salmon die-off, probably a couple
37 hundred thousand fish. And there was an algae bloom
38 associated with that. And it wasn't just in the
39 mainstem, but some of the tributaries, like the
40 Squirrel River is a very large tributary of the Kobuk.
41 I think we were all unprepared for that, and we had a
42 response that was kind of weak, but working with the
43 folks at Selawik Refuge, their office is in Kotzebue,
44 we're going to do a better job of addressing that if it
45 ever happens again.

46

47 So we have Fish and Game Staff, there's
48 two technicians in Kiana that do a test net project for
49 chum salmon to get an idea of the run strength. And it
50 was a huge run. The commercial harvest was 800,000

1 fish or something in Kotzebue Sound. A lot of those
2 are Kobuk, and the rest are Noatak fish. It appeared
3 to effect almost entirely chum salmon and nothing else.
4 And it appeared to be temperature related. It was a
5 very warm, very low water time of year. And aerial
6 surveys flown after we noticed the die off still showed
7 lots of live chums up on spawning ground, so we believe
8 we dodged a bullet there, but they -- it appeared to be
9 temperature-related, and then low water. So it's not
10 something we can change. And it's still pretty
11 pristine water up there, so it wasn't a water quality
12 problem. But the samples of fish we sent to the
13 pathology lab in Anchorage showed diatoms on the
14 gills, which is associated with the bloom, because the
15 water got really warm. But you could see the algae on
16 the bottom of the river, it's big long green. And so
17 when it got cold and the ice scoured, it all went away.
18 And last summer's chum run was very good and we had not
19 problem with those die-offs again. So it's something
20 that in the north is going to pop up on our radar along
21 with these slumps we're starting to see, too, when the
22 side of the hills fall into the river. So that's what
23 I know about that.

24

25 Thanks.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
28 that, Brendan. I think it's -- again, I just don't
29 recall the incident when it occurred, because we're so
30 busy with all the other 90 different things, but thank
31 you for sharing that.

32

33 And, Rosemary, did you want to follow
34 up.

35

36 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I just wanted to
37 make sure that we do have something in place that we
38 can revert to if there is another event, and taking on
39 the step of precaution, that there is some kind of
40 assessment that is occurring so that it's not something
41 that is allowed to increase in severity and move
42 further north.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Is it something
45 that we could put controls over, or is it something
46 that is -- I'm just questioning, because if it's
47 something that we can put controls over, where are all
48 the funds coming from.

49

50 MR. SCANLON. Thank you. I wish we

1 could cool the rivers down several degrees. A lot of
2 times it will be -- we can't, but we do have -- at
3 least Northwest, we have a program, or at least a plan
4 drawn up. And in the North Slope, perhaps I could talk
5 to the North Slope Borough Wildlife Department, because
6 they already have Staff on the Slope to at least
7 collect fish and do some water sampling.

8

9 Thanks.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.

12

13 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Thank you.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you,
16 Rosemary.

17

18 Any other comments regarding this
19 discussion point, call for proposals to change Federal
20 subsistence fish and shellfish regulations.

21

22 (No comments)

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Karen.

25

26 MS. HYER: All right. If there are no
27 comments there, then we are starting to work on the
28 priority information needs, and those are the
29 information needs that you develop that will drive our
30 next call, which will come out in the fall. And
31 proposals will be submitted, and funding will be in
32 2018. So it's quite a ways away.

33

34 But what we want to do here, and this
35 is opportune, because you're pressed for time, is we'd
36 like to form on the record a subcommittee, because then
37 we can meet and have discussions, because we need to
38 have a lot of discussions to develop those priority
39 information needs correctly so we don't sit at meetings
40 and say we're going to do this in the Mead River and
41 Bob says, and don't forget the Naru (ph), and I have to
42 go, okay, I have to go look that up on the map. So we
43 just feel like we get better discussion if we form the
44 subcommittee. And then our goal would be to come in
45 the fall with well thought out priority information
46 needs for the Council's approval. And that way we have
47 time to talk to land managers, and we have time to talk
48 amongst ourselves, and you have time to go back to your
49 communities.

50

1 So I guess it's a motion, right, Eva?
2 I would need a motion to form a subcommittee, and then
3 we can proceed from there. And the subcommittee would
4 be to develop the priority information needs.

5
6 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: I'd like to make a
7 motion to develop a subcommittee to work on the
8 priority information needs.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There's a motion
11 on the floor.

12
13 MR. SHEARS: Second.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by Bob.
16 Further discussion. Any volunteers.

17
18 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair. I volunteer.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob. Rosemary.

21
22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yeah, (indiscernible
23 - mic off). And I know Sam was very interested in this
24 one also.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And Sam Kunaknana
27 from Nuiqsut. We'll give him the bigger
28 responsibility, too.

29
30 (Laughter)

31
32 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm not sure what
33 his schedule looks like, but that's what happens when
34 you're absent. You're given the heaviest bag to carry.

35
36 Anyway, how many people did you need
37 from the Council on this, Karen.

38
39 MS. HYER: I'd like everybody that's
40 interested, because it's going to be an on-going
41 dialogue.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Any other
44 volunteers to the subcommittee.

45
46 MR. OOMITUK: Mr. Chair.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Point Hope.
49 Steve.

50

1 MR. KAYOTUK: I would like to volunteer
2 if it's okay for the Chair and Council. Thank you.

3
4 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Lee and Steve,
5 Bob, Rosemary, and Sam. How's that for you?

6
7 MS. HYER: That sounds great.

8
9 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Proposal,
10 priority information needs on fisheries.

11
12 MS. HYER: Okay. Mr. Chairman.
13 Council members. That's all I have.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: We're still under
16 a motion at this point.

17
18 MS. HYER: Oh, I'm sorry. That's
19 right.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: So we have
22 identified the names. I'll state them again. Bob,
23 Rosemary, Sam, Lee, Steve are the subcommittee for the
24 priority information needs to address as a
25 subcommittee. All in favor of that motion signify by
26 aye.

27
28 IN UNISON: Aye.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

31
32 (No opposing votes)

33
34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Can't hear Sam.
35 Okay. Motion passes.

36
37 MS. HYER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
38 Council members.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you, Karen,
41 Brendan.

42
43 Next item under old business. Oh, man,
44 I keep wanting to (indiscernible) so much. Eva.

45
46 MS. PATTON: So, Mr. Chair and Council,
47 next on the item is to approve your annual report,
48 which you will find on your North Slope RAC book on
49 Page 27. And again this was the annual report
50 developed primarily at the Anaktuvuk Pass meeting,

1 issues and concerns that were identified by the Council
2 to bring to the Board's attention, and some actions you
3 were seeking. And some of these are on-going issues
4 and concerns that the Council is reiterating.

5
6 Item No. 1 was preventing the
7 deflection of caribou and also food security
8 management. And this was in particular for Anaktuvuk
9 Pass, but also across the North Slope region.

10
11 Development of impacts and multi-
12 jurisdiction cooperation. And again this was
13 addressing food security, and the Council wanting to
14 revisit some of the concerns in their previous year's
15 annual report that they weren't -- that you felt
16 weren't fully addressed in the Federal Subsistence
17 Board's reply, and the various factors creating
18 challenges to subsistence communities to meet their
19 needs. So not only decline of subsistence foods such
20 as the caribou herd, but also deflection of the
21 migratory path or things that would impact access to
22 subsistence foods.

23
24 And No. 3 was access to Native
25 allotments within Gates of the Arctic National Park.
26 And we had some response from that. This will also go
27 to the Board to raise their attention there.

28
29 Adequate time to conduct Council
30 business and engage with public participation, which is
31 an on-going concern of the Council, and a serious issue
32 for the Council to be able to do its work fully and to
33 fully support the community and public involvement.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Say that last one
36 again, please.

37
38 MS. PATTON: The last one?

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Say the last
41 segment again. My ears are just ringing and I can't
42 hear.

43
44 MS. PATTON: So the last one was
45 adequate time to conduct Council business and engage in
46 public participation. And that has been an on-going
47 and a serious concern of the Council, to bring that to
48 the Board's attention and to resolve that.

49
50 So those were the primary topics that

1 the Council brought before the Board.

2

3 In addition to this annual report, as
4 we discussed at the meeting, we will be finalizing the
5 Council's letter from Anaktuvuk Pass, the testimony
6 from Anaktuvuk Pass, and submitting that to the Board.
7 So it's referenced in this annual report, too, so it
8 will draw back on those more in-depth letters and
9 correspondence, and also the transcripts of that public
10 testimony as well.

11

12 MR. SHEARS: Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bob.

15

16 MR. SHEARS: Motion to approve your
17 annual report.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: There's a motion
20 on the floor to approve the annual report as written.

21

22 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Seconded.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Seconded by
25 Rosemary. Discussion.

26

27 MR. OOMITUK: Question.

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Everything's been
30 covered in regard to our concerns. I'll recognize the
31 question. All in favor of approving the annual report
32 to the Federal Subsistence Board Chair signify by
33 saying aye.

34

35 IN UNISON: Aye.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Opposed say nay.

38

39 (No opposing votes)

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. Thank
42 you, Council. We have our annual report to the Federal
43 Subsistence Chair.

44

45 Eva.

46

47 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
48 There was also -- this was just developed. It's
49 another letter, so this was a summary of the Councils'
50 recommendations and actions that were just spoken of

1 yesterday and the day before in the all-Council
2 meeting. And so Staff drafted this up and we're
3 seeking support of all the Councils. This would be
4 submitted to the Federal Subsistence Board so there's a
5 formal letter going forward reiterating the questions,
6 concerns, and requests.

7
8 We have an option. The Council can
9 take a look at this now and make a motion to support
10 it, support the actions of all the Councils together,
11 of if you like, because we are meeting on Friday with
12 the Northwest Arctic Council, and that will be an
13 opportunity also to make formal recommendations. You'd
14 have a chance to read this and make a recommendation at
15 that time.

16
17 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think I like the
18 latter part.

19
20 MS. PATTON: The latter, okay. Thank
21 you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And looking
24 through and then make some recommended changes
25 accordingly with our neighboring Council.

26
27 MS. PATTON: My understanding was this
28 was a summary of those Council actions. We weren't
29 able to actually make -- because it's involving all 10
30 Councils, they weren't able to actually make
31 modifications to the letter, but if you feel it
32 supports the Councils' intent, and what was discussed
33 there.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Related to the
36 other subject we'll be doing next, the proposed rule,
37 and interpretation of that. Our neighboring
38 constituents may already have some great thoughts and
39 details about that proposed rule. I kept hearing that
40 from them to be opposed to that National Park Service
41 proposed rule, but I wasn't sure which one it was,
42 because there was several other proposed rules to be
43 considered.

44
45 MS. PATTON: Right. To clarify for the
46 Council, the discussion on the proposed rule that was
47 -- that many of the other Councils had brought up in
48 the all-Council meeting was in reference to the
49 Refuges' proposed rule. And I know it's difficult to
50 keep them separate. They all follow the same Federal

1 regulatory process where it gets posted on the Federal
2 Register, and it's called a proposed rule. They were
3 not.....

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And that's
6 separate.

7

8 MS. PATTON: That was separate. They
9 were referring to the Refuges' proposed rule, and the
10 YK-Delta Council did draft a brief motion. They were
11 seeking support from the other Regional Advisory
12 Councils to develop a joint statement with other
13 Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils with
14 similar concerns of opposition to the U.S. Fish and
15 Wildlife Service's proposed rule, and this is on refuge
16 lands, for predator management on refuges, that
17 includes a request that the Federal Subsistence Board
18 advocate on behalf of the Councils for withdrawal of
19 the proposed rule. So they just developed this today,
20 and we're asking all the Councils if they were
21 interested in this same action to have a motion to
22 support this request. If the Council concurs with the
23 action, and this is also another opportunity I think on
24 Friday if you had wanted to follow up with this at the
25 joint Northwest Arctic Council meeting.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Follow up again on
28 Friday; is that what you just said?

29

30 MS. PATTON: Yes. There's an
31 opportunity for these two things to follow up on Friday
32 if the Council wishes to do that then.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I think I'm
35 getting some indications, yes, on Friday.

36

37 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Yes.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Okay. Thank you.
40 Anything else, Eva.

41

42 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
43 Then the last thing on our agenda.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Adjournment.

46

47 (Laughter)

48

49 MS. PATTON: It's almost to
50 adjournment. Just one last thing is to confirm the

1 date and location for the fall 2016 meeting for the
2 Council and then select a winter 2017 date. And the
3 calendar is on Page 236 of the All-RAC meeting book.
4 And the North Slope had selected at the Anaktuvuk Pass
5 meeting to meet on November 1st and 2nd.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: In Barrow.

8

9 MS. PATTON: In Barrow.

10

11 MR. G. BROWER: Just two days?

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: November 1 and 2.

14

15 MS. PATTON: November 1 and 2. And
16 then the Council did request in your annual report to
17 be able to meet for three days to address issues.

18

19 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Comments.

20

21 MS. PATTON: Yes.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Maybe to lessen
24 the amount of information on the agenda and just meet
25 for two days instead of meeting for three days.

26

27 (Laughter)

28

29 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: That seems to be
30 our situation that's before us is the amount of items
31 on the agenda is so overwhelming we can't cover it
32 because of our discussions. Maybe that might be
33 another consideration. Consider.

34

35 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Yes, Eva.

38

39 MS. PATTON: So the fall meeting, this
40 is a fisheries regulatory cycle, and because there are
41 no to few subsistence fisheries regulations on the
42 North Slope, it will make it a lighter meeting in terms
43 of all the proposals that are coming before the
44 Council. So the wildlife proposal cycle tends to be
45 quite heavy with all the proposals. You'd be
46 addressing the FRMP issues, but few to no cross-over
47 fisheries regulatory proposals for the North Slope, so
48 it may be a lighter agenda.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: For the fisheries.

1 Winter 2017 Regional Advisory Council meeting, that's
2 the one you're referring to.

3

4 MS. PATTON: Mr. Chair and Council.
5 This fall is -- the fall 2016 is when -- so proposals
6 will be developed now, and then those proposals come
7 before the Council in the fall, but those are fisheries
8 regulatory proposals, and there are very few that cross
9 over with the North Slope region.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: I'm shaking. I
12 joke. Anyway, yes. So we'll probably just stick to
13 the two days that we've identified so far, unless we
14 have some other pressing matters that come before the
15 Council and so Eva could get information disseminated
16 through electronic mail or snail mail. It takes
17 forever.

18

19 And our winter 2017.

20

21 MS. PATTON: And winter 2017, right now
22 you're one of the first Councils to meet, so on Page
23 236, the window starts on February 6th and closes on
24 March 17th. YK-Delta RAC just selected February 22nd
25 and 23rd for their winter meeting. So it's pretty wide
26 open in that time frame. What works best for the
27 Council in your schedule and your subsistence
28 activities.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: What's the wish of
31 the Council for 2017. I think we're good with the
32 November dates. We'll move on to Page 236, winter
33 2017.

34

35 (Indiscernible - microphones not on)

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: February 9 and 10.
38 Any opposition to the recommendation.

39

40 (No comments)

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: None noted. So
43 ordered. February 9 and 10, 2017. Okay. Sounds good.
44 Thank you, Council.

45

46 Eva, thank you. Anything else we need
47 to address.

48

49 MS. PATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chair and
50 Council. I just want to say under old business, and we

1 already addressed it this morning, I will be following
2 up with the Community of Anaktuvuk Pass for their
3 review of the draft controlled use area proposal, and
4 will be trying to get their feedback to finalize the
5 details in that. So I will definitely keep you in the
6 loop on that. And then the final draft will come back
7 to you via email for your review and final approval.
8 So I just want to let you know that I'll be following
9 up with Anaktuvuk Pass on that, and then get that back
10 to you for your final approval.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And the request we
13 had was to make it in line with the Noatak Controlled
14 Use Area, I think that was, Gordon?

15
16 MS. PATTON: Correct. Yes, and I have
17 the draft proposal here. It's just missing their
18 detail of the precise dates that work for them. So it
19 was including the language that was used in the Noatak
20 Controlled Use Area where it increased the restrictions
21 to use of flights during those sensitive times for
22 other hunting and uses as well, to reduce the flight
23 activity. And I have that copy, so I can get you the
24 draft copy to go home with, and then we'll be working
25 to -- hopefully we can at the tri-lateral working
26 group, to review it and get their full input on that,
27 and their support and approval to submit it. And then
28 that will come back to you for your final approval.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: And thank you for
31 that, Eva.

32
33 Final comments from the Council.

34
35 MR. G. BROWER: Yeah, Mr. Chair.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Gordon.

38
39 MR. G. BROWER: I think I find the
40 experience to have an all-Council meeting to be
41 important, and if we could advocate to do it
42 periodically would be good. I think I went to an all-
43 Council meeting maybe 10 years ago maybe. Maybe a
44 little further back. But they don't often happen, or
45 it seems to be there's no need for them to happen. But
46 I think there really is.

47
48 And I also want to just express that,
49 you know, when I'm expressing myself, I try to express
50 from the heart, and sometimes I can come out kind of

1 harsh, you know. And, you know, I just want to see out
2 folks, our residents have the best opportunities to
3 continue the way they've been doing things, and promote
4 that.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Thank you for
7 sharing that Gordon. I don't think it's just only you.
8 I think there's some of us that follow your footsteps
9 as well. I think we're professional meeting-goers,
10 that's all.

11
12 (Laughter)

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Committed to our
15 constituents, so we have to look after them, to make
16 them feel safe. But I think that, you know, I've been
17 going to so many meetings I start getting confused with
18 the amount of information that I've received, and try
19 to make do with whatever I can. And at some points I
20 lose my thoughts for some reason.

21
22 Anyway, thank you, Eva, and all the
23 Staff for taking the time being here with us. Our
24 court reporter, thank you very much.

25
26 A motion to adjourn is in order.

27
28 MR. OOMITUK: So move.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Motion on the
31 floor to adjourn.

32
33 MR. G. BROWER: Second.

34
35 MS. AHTUANGARUAK: Question.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Called for. All
38 in favor say bye.

39
40 IN UNISON: Bye.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. BROWER: Bye. Thank you,
43 Council members.

44
45 (Off record)

46
47 (END OF PROCEEDINGS)

48

